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Hafa Adai!

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Hillary is CNMI Democrats' choice

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Participants excited to take part in democratic process

It's Hillary Clinton for the CNMI Democratic Party, after nearly 200 people showed up in caucuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to back a Democratic presidential candidate and elect delegates to represent the NMI in the Democratic Party National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

See HILLARY on Page 4

DENNIS B. CHAN

Those present at the first-ever NMI Democratic Caucus on Saipan last Saturday raise their hands for their ballots to be collected. Former secretary of state and former New York senator Hillary Clinton was the CNMI Democratic Party's choice after caucuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were held.

Torres backs GOP frontrunner Trump

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Torres

Following a herd of Republican Party support throughout the nation, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has endorsed Republican presidential candidate and firebrand Donald Trump for the presidency, calling Trump the only remaining candidate who has laid out a "genuine plan" for the U.S. territories and commonwealths.

In a statement yesterday, Torres explains. "For more than a year, Republican leaders from all the territories have discussed how best to approach the Republican Party

See TORRES on Page 4

Back-to-back for Rhythm 'N Harmony in TBMF

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Rhythm 'N Harmony again won the Sweepstakes Trophy Award for the second straight year in the 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Marianas High School's glee club Rhythm 'N Harmony celebrate their win after being awarded the Sweepstakes Trophy in the 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival held from March 3 to 8 in Guam.

held from March 3 to 8. The finale concert and awards ceremony was last Saturday.

"The Sweepstakes Trophy Award is given to the ensemble who got the highest rating from all categories both choir and band ensembles," said Rhythm 'N Harmony musical director Paul Dujua.

The Marianas High School glee club competed in the high school choir category where they went up against hometown bets Tiyan High

See TBMF on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Mt. Carmel School freshman Matt Moran led the list of winners of the 2016 Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Fair held last Saturday.

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NATION

In a Republican presidential primary filled with extraordinary moments, a 24-hour stretch that began Friday night stands above them all.

» PAGE 15

ASIA

Japanese gathered in Tokyo and along the country's ravaged northeast coast to observe a moment of silence at 2:46 p.m. Friday, exactly five years after a magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck offshore.

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Local

Commerce, consultant to begin working on CEDS

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consultants hired by the CNMI Department of Commerce will begin their work for the five-year strategic plan of the Commonwealth this week.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan is conducted every five years through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

"The 2009-2014 CEDS has expired so EDA granted the CNMI through the Office of the Governor that grant to again do the next five years strategic plan to the CNMI," Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said.

Commerce said among the main goals for CEDS is to look into what projects are critical to the CNMI and address the current projects that need to be emphasized in the plan.

"The CEDS is to plan out the next five years' economic development strategy plan for the CNMI. It's a partnership between both public and private stakeholders," Rabauliman said.

Rabauliman said the consultants will be on island this week to begin information gathering.

Also included in the first phases of creating the plan is to do fact-finding and public and stakeholders meetings.

"The next two weeks of March, the contractor will be on island to gather information so they're going to speak to not only government entities, private sectors," Rabauliman said.

"Through those meetings, hopefully it will paint a clear picture of what are the priorities," Rabauliman said.

Rabauliman said they are looking at four to five months to get all those things including public meetings as well as the actual preparation of the report to be finished.

"The outcome from this study or report helps all the other agencies as they apply for federal grants within their departments. They'll be able to use that as a resource," Rabauliman said.

EDA's grant to the CNMI government is $100,000, and the local Commerce Department has contracted Washington Pacific Economic Development Group based in Guam

See CEDS on Page 3

St Patrick's Day at Kili Cafe & Terrace
Thursday, 17 March 2016, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
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Judge dismisses case vs suspected 'ice' trafficker

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the criminal charge against suspected methamphetamine or "ice" trafficker Joshua Sablan Diaz.

Following the Office of the Attorney General's request on Thursday, Camacho dismissed without prejudice the first amended information charging the 30-year-old Diaz with illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Dismissal without prejudice means the government may re-open the case in the future.

Acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds said the government believes "it is in the interest of justice" to dismiss this case without prejudice.

Hinds did not specifically indicate the reason.

Attorney Vicente T. Salas, counsel for Diaz, did not oppose the government's motion.

According to the charging document, Diaz unlawfully possessed "ice" on Dec. 23, 2015 on Saipan.

Diaz was a passenger of a car driven by Li Qiran, a Chinese man who was pulled over by a police detective on the road in Garapan allegedly for being wanted by International Police.

When the officers patted down Qiran and Diaz, officers allegedly found a clear Ziploc bag containing 0.3 gross grams of methamphetamine.

Police detective Jesse Dubrall allegedly found underneath the driver's seat a bag containing Ziploc baggies with crystal-like substance and green leafy substance believed to be marijuana.

Diaz has pending "ice" trafficking charges.

Diaz surrendered to police last May 19 after the Department of Public Safety sought police's assistance in locating him for allegedly involving in "ice" trafficking.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that their "cooperating source" managed to buy $50 worth of "ice" from Diaz, who was in a vehicle with another person, in the parking lot of Dolphin's Wholesale in San Jose on March 17, 2015.

Norita said the same "cooperating source" also managed to purchase $100 more worth of "ice" from Diaz, who was in a vehicle with another man, in the parking lot of Garage Sale in San Jose on March 18, 2015.

Norita said the "cooperating source" again bought $50 worth of "ice" from Diaz on April 9, 2015. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

11th Saipan Marathon
April 16, 2016

40 Years 1976-2016

This year's 11th Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, will be offering an estimated $8,000+ in cash prizes to the fastest runners in all categories. Interested runners are reminded to register by Friday (March 18) in order to participate in the race.

The additional support is being contributed by celebrity marathon supporter Kanpei Hazama and Kofuji Distribution Co. of Japan. In addition to the $1,000 sponsored annually by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for each top male and female finishers, this year the male and female winners of 50 km, full marathon, half marathon and 10 km courses will be awarded cash prizes.

Registration for the 50K and marathon is $65.00 for US and NMI participants ($100 for international participants), and $55.00 for half-marathon and 10K participants ($70 for international participants). Registration payments must be made at the MVA office in cash and will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 15, 2016, at 4 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas without exception.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located in on Beach Rd. in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 670.664.3210 or via email at ediaz@mymarianas.com.

www.mymarianas.com

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

HPO discussion next step for BSI on interment of remains

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After holding public meetings with the community, interment plans of the unearthed remains on Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s site in Garapan will be discussed with the Historic Preservation Office.

According to BSI legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, they will give the information they have gathered to the said agency.

"The next step will be to submit all the recordings and sign-up sheets for the public hearings to the HPO. Thereafter, we will begin discussions on the various suggestions for the internment site," Alepuyo said.

Although not required, BSI held two public meetings last Feb. 23 and 24 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and Chacha Ocean View Middle School in Kagman to discuss options and present to the public the findings of the project.

"We felt that this project was so important to the community, the community members deserved to hear about what was found directly from Dr. [Michael] Dega," Alepuyo said.

BSI was able to gather from those who attended the meetings that the location where the remains should be reburied is where BSI's Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort will soon rise.

"The majority of the people agreed that the internment site should be at the Grand Mariana site, however, there was still disagreement as to the exact location," Alepuyo said.

"This will ultimately be HPO's decision," she added.

According to Alepuyo, BSI is required to complete the project by August 2017 pursuant to their public land lease.

"The company feels that our construction is on schedule to meet the deadline," Alepuyo said.

Scientific Consultant Services principal investigator Michael Dega, who worked with BSI on the project, touted as "the largest data recovery project ever in Saipan," has already submitted a 270-page preliminary draft to HPO after about four months of digging and data recovery with 12 archeologists.

The site, which was called Anaguan, is an ancient village and burial site as early as 1300 A.D., and had two main layers: a cultural layer where people used to live and a burial layer.

Aside from a total to 416 MNIs or minimum numbers of individuals found, sling stones, fish hooks, jewelry, pottery, bone spears, stone and shell tools, basalt axes, and lusongs are just some of the materials they found.

They also found an overturned 3-foot ceramic bowl, which when lifted turned out to be covering the remains of a 3-year old child. The bowl was said to be the "largest ceramic bowl ever found intact." They also found the remains of an American G.I. from World War II that was found to be of European decent.

There were no findings of pre-latte period artifacts as well as evidence of the site being a former Spanish settlement.

CEDS

From Page 2

to do the report.

The last CEDS report done in 2009 identified and listed projects in ranking order according to their ability to spur economic development, which included CUC Public Private Partnership, Inter-Island Super Ferry, Pinantang Park, Alternative Energy-CNMI Wide, and MHA Public Housing Redevelopment on Saipan.

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TORRES

From Page 1

Presidential election in 2016. The decision made at the time was to coalesce around the candidate that put forward the best and most realistic plan for the territories and commonwealths. For too many years we have been courted for our votes in the primary season but forgotten in the general election."

"The CNMI has had visits from four different Presidential Campaigns over the past year. At the time, only Dr. Ben Carson [former presidential candidate] had put together a plan which acknowledged that we have been ignored and suffer inequalities," Torres said. "Carson pledged to appoint a special assistant in the White House directly responsible for the territories and commonwealths. This person would complement the office of Insular Affairs and their core function. Additionally, Carson would appoint a Territory and Commonwealth Advisory Council that would include representatives from each Territory and Commonwealth. This council would identify federal inconsistencies with regard to our islands and put together a package of proposals to correct them.

"Dr. Carson unfortunately suspended his campaign and endorsed Donald Trump a few days ago. At this point, I was made aware that Donald Trump not only supported Dr. Carson's plan for the territories and commonwealth—he adopted it!

Torres said he has heard "nothing" from any of the other candidates running for President.

"I made a decision to support the candidate who genuinely put forward a plan to help all the territories and commonwealths," he said. "On Saturday and in my personal capacity, I endorsed Donald Trump as the Republican candidate for President."

"By the same token, I extend my congratulations to the CNMI Democratic Party for holding a successful and peaceful caucus Saturday evening," Torres added. "Because we may prefer different candidates, I encourage that we respect each other's rightful decisions and refrain from negative attacks on one another."

The endorsement, which broke on Twitter Saturday afternoon, drew cries of disbelief from young CNMI voters in the mainland and on island embarrassed by the NMI leader's support of a candidate they believe was an open bigot to races and people like themselves.

"[Torres] endorses hate for his own people," young voter Lee Roy Sablan Jr. told *Saipan Tribune*, after local GOP director Jason Osborne shared the news on Twitter Saturday. "Trump is a racist and bully and anyone who endorses him might as well as be saying they are racists and bullies too."

"I never got a chance to vote in the last election," said Sablan, but "even then I thought that it was difficult to choose [late governor Eloy] Inos because he was running with Torres. After hearing this endorsement, I do not think that any responsible young voter would choose a person like this to lead our islands."

Some young people like Genevieve Dela Cruz, reacted with disbelief and took to Torres' Facebook page to demand an explanation.

"Please say this is a mistake," wrote Dela Cruz on Torres' Facebook page.

"We are being represented in a way that supports making fun of people with disabilities, hating Muslims and Mexicans, making derogatory remarks toward women, turning a blind eye to violence in the name of winning, white supremacy, and so many more terrible things," she added. "We barely get a say in this and the only part where we do get to choose and that's what was chosen for us by you? No way."

Still, young voter and recent college graduate Vinnie Orsini says Torres "is on the wrong side of history."

"Donald Trump divides people, he builds walls against people and against different parts of the community. And if there is anything this country is about, it's about unifying people," Orsini said. "I think for the majority of Americans and for the younger generation of Americans, I think we are leaning toward a democratic society. If there is anything that we need in the Marianas, it's progress and change."

"Donald Trump represents the 1 percent and represents what is worst about America," Orsini added.

Asked if he thought Trump could tell the difference between a Chamorro or Mexican, one local Democrat, Ajani Burrell said, "Probably not."

"Although to be fair lots of people probably couldn't," Burrell added. "They just mostly have to be voting for Donald Trump."

HILLARY

From Page 1

This was the first Democratic caucus in NMI history. A total of 132 people showed up for the Saipan caucus, 16 for Tinian, and 41 on Rota, according to the official caucus results.

Clinton garnered 102 votes and four delegates were allocated to her and Sanders earned 65 votes, garnering two delegates.

"Rota and Tinian carried the day for Hillary Clinton," said local representative for the Clinton campaign, Janet King, after the votes had been tallied. A lot of people on Saipan came out for Sanders, King said, but "overall Hillary is the choice for the CNMI."

Speaking to a crowd at the Royal Taga Hall at World Resort, where supporters wore T-shirts of their preferred candidate, adorned themselves with stickers, and waved flags, King called the day's event "one direct way" to get the CNMI "closer to the ear of the president."

King said that she believes in Clinton for her extensive years in the Democratic Party, working with myriads of groups, and called the constituents Clinton has served as two-term senator for New York and as secretary of state "very, very broad."

That constituency is "now working to get closer to the NMI," King said. Clinton is serious and "what we in the CNMI need," she added. "This opportunity for 11 delegates to be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania," is "one step closer to the president."

Stephen Woodruff, the official local representative for the Sanders campaign, for his part, thanked supports for taking time to participate in a "historic occasion." "This is the first time the people in the CNMI have ever had an opportunity to help choose who will be next president" and "I firmly believe that the next president will be a Democrat," Woodruff said, extending "greetings" from Bernie Sanders himself.

Sanders, Woodruff said, "has consistently adhered to principles of honesty and commitments to certain core values."

"Civil rights, justice for ordinary people, economic justice, social justice," Woodruff said. "That's Bernie Sanders. Which is one reason why he is the better choice tonight."

Woodruff defended Sanders' policies against those who say they weren't "realistic," saying that economists have found them "sound." He also called Sanders "the amendment king" during his 25 years in U.S. Congress.

"He knows how to get things done" and "has all the experience to do the job from day one," Woodruff said.

"The corrupting effects of money and politics. The way that the system is rigged in favor of big corporations because of their money—Bernie Sanders is committed to ending that. He is committed to revitalizing the American middle class which has been destroyed over the last 30 years by massive transfers of wealth from the middle class to the top one percent in the country."

"Biba Bernie!" Woodruff said, to cheer and applause.

While the choices seemed clear heading into the caucus, local attorney Michael White offered another option, the "uncommitted" vote.

"Why should we vote uncommitted?" White said, speaking to the crowd on Saturday. "Because it's the smart thing to do.

"There are 2,083 delegates needed to select the Democratic nominee for president. As of the today, the leading candidate has barely half of that number. There are a lot of big states that haven't voted yet" and "everything is still up in the air" and there are "a lot of heavy delegate-rich states that haven't voted yet."

"What happens at the convention, if we support candidate A and candidate B goes into the convention with an absolute majority of the delegates? How will president B feel about the CNMI at that point? I think it's better to remain uncommitted."

White said that if the nomination is decided at the time of the convention, the NMI " can vote with the winner." "We don't have to cast our ballots for the loser," as you do if you commit to a candidate that heads into the convention without a majority of delegates.

"Look at it another way," White urged. "What do we know about what the candidates will offer the territories, including the CNMI? If we go uncommitted we'll be in a better bargaining position to work with the next president of the United States to try and get what we need to try and improve our situation. The smart choice is to vote uncommitted."

A total of 22 voted for the uncommitted option.

Rock De La Fuente garnered zero votes.

'Exciting'

For many at the caucus Saturday, a chance to exercise their vote was an exiting one.

"We came to practice our rights to vote," said college student Kim Bautista, who came with a cohort of other students.

"This is democracy in action," said Ajani Burrell, a Sanders supporter and instructor at the Northern Marianas College, who called it exciting to be part of a presidential election so far away from the mainland.

"[Sanders] seems to be one that has been supportive of and fighting for the middle class Americans for the longest time," Burrell said, while standing in line in to register at the caucus on Saturday. "Middle class America has not seen the gains that other parts of the economy have. I have more faith in him to represent the interests of the middle class."

"I am voting for Hillary Clinton," said Magdiel Corpuz, a college student. "She is very supportive of immigration and of students like myself. I see a lot of college students here and also young people."

"We need a mother," said NMI Democratic Party Chairman Rosiky F. Camacho. "A mother like Hillary would probably would be the best for American and for us."

Mo Howland, a physician at the local hospital, backed Sanders "because he is interested in restoring the balance of money and power away from the upper one/tenth and back to the people."

"He is going to do good things against crime by giving free college to the thug class that doesn't have a way out of the ghetto," said Howland, before he registered to vote on Saturday. "And I see him as being internationally stable by looking for diplomacy and coalition rather than America being the world's policeman."

"More power to the people is good for anybody, even in the CNMI," Howland added.

Herb Soll, a retired judge and Democratic supporter, said he was in the 2012 Democratic Convention with former judge Edward Manibusan, "the first two people" there at the convention when the party was first admitted to the Democratic National Party at the convention.

"It was very impressive," Soll said of the turnout

Asked what he thought of the day's turnout, Soll said, "It was very impressive," and added he "absolutely" encourages more part activity in the future.

For Clinton delegates, Angelo Villagomez, Joseph Hill, Janet King, and a to-be-decided female delegate will representing the NMI in Philadelphia.

For Sanders, it will be Woodruff and to-be-decided female delegate.

Based on the voting, Clinto was allocated four delegates, an equal split of male and female. Sanders garnered two.

TBMF

From Page 1

School's A Generation of Voices, Guam High School Chorus, La Voce (The Voice) of Simon Sanchez High School, and St. John's High School Glee Club.

"In our category, we were the Judges Choice for High School Choir," added Dujua. "This is the fourth time in five years that we won the Sweepstakes Award."

This is the second straight year that Rhythm 'N Harmony won the Sweepstakes Trophy and the Judges Award. The Sweepstakes Trophy is the highest award given in the annual music festival, which began with the two-day Chorale Festival on March 3 and 4.

Miguel Aninon, Roland Balajadia, Mikee Campo, Riczi John Cano, Grace Catalma, Eden Conner, Zowie Cruz, Neil Fama, Gios Gozon, Paula Regine Gozon, Diane Hermogenes, John Huevos, Leonard Manuel, Annabel Manzo, Joselle Reyes, Charley Sablan, Clarisse Noelle Torio, and Erica Faye Tubera—who was the second runner-up in last month's Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy—are the 18 members of Rhythm 'N Harmony.

Rhythm 'N Harmony previously won in 2012, 2013, and 2015. Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band & Percussion Ensemble was the Sweepstakes Award winner in 2014.

SSHS also won the award three more times in 2008 (Manta Band), 2009 (String Ensemble), and 2011 (Manta Band).

Santa Barbara Parish Boys Choir's Opus Angelicus of Dededo was the Festival Sweepstakes Award winner in 2010, while MAGIS, also from Guam, was the first recipient in 2007.

The Solo & Small Ensemble Festival was held on March 5, while the Band & Orchestra Festival was on March 7 and 8. The competition took a break on March 6 with a rock performance and festival pop concert.

A band instrument workshop—flute, clarinet, saxophone, double reeds, brass, guitar, bass guitar, drums, and percussion—was also held for two days on March 7 and 8 at the Guam National Guard's Barrigada Readiness Center.

ARC extend thanks to UFO

American Red Cross-CNMI chapter executive director John Hirsch thanked the United Filipino Organization for their donation of $1,000. The money will be used to help in the recovery efforts of families gravely affected by Typhoon Soudelor.

Hirsch said donations and other assistance made by organizations like the UFO are a big help in the speedy recovery of Saipan after being hit by the Category 5 super typhoon in August of last year.

"After the storm, members of the community began the clean up and helped those who need immediate assistance. But more homes were wiped and a lot of those who were affected where living from paycheck to paycheck," said Hirsch.

"They are the ones who could not afford even the low-interest loans that are offered. A lot were left homeless and they were either living with their relatives or relocated to another village. They have no resources or have difficulty in getting the materials to repair or rebuild their homes," Hirsch added.

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts wanted to build typhoon-resistant homes for these families and the monetary donation made by the UFO would be a big help.

CARE and ARC are continuing to appeal to other bigger companies and the government to provide monetary support so they could provide the resources needed to complete the project. ***(Jon Perez)***

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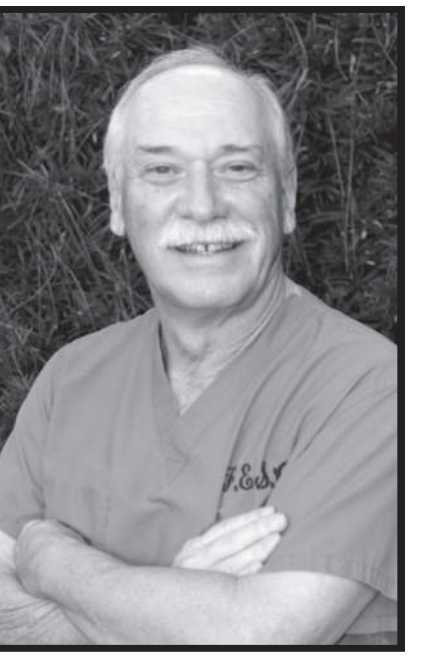

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Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

Moran leads STEM Fair winners

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School freshman Matt Moran led the list of winners of the 2016 Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Fair held last Saturday at Saipan Southern High School. He won Cluster 4, the ninth to 12th grade category.

The 13-year-old's entry was harnessing Energy and Gas from garbage or waste products from fruits and vegetables. He also used yeast in his experiment

"My project focused on discovering if there's energy we can harness from waste products or stuff that we usually throw away," said Moran, who was accelerated twice.

Moran's experiment used apple cores and peels, onions, and cabbages in producing biogas or methane in inflating some balloons. Methane gas could also be turned into energy, such as electricity that could power a light bulb or charge a mobile phone.

Moran said that the onions soaked in water proved to be the most effective among the three waste products that he used. He also used water with Clorox but the chlorine killed the bacteria that formed methane.

According to his father, Michael, his son first won in MCS' school-wide competition in the 9th to 12th graders. "MCS president [Galvin Deleon Guerrero], when he announced the winner that the student was not a junior or a sophomore but a freshman."

Tina Choi of Marianas Baptist Academy placed second with her entry Mathematical Models Predicting Primary Numbers, while Marianas High School's Robert Malate, a member of the two-time Real World Design Challenge national champions Aeronautical Dolphins, came in third with his entry, Production of Biodiesel Fuel from Vegetable Wastes.

STEM Fair chair James Sablan, the principal of San Antonio Middle School, congratulated all students who joined and thanked everyone who helped organizing this year's event.

"It was a pretty good turnout with a lot of good entries from the students. It is always nice to see our sister islands from Tinian and Rota join the competition. We welcome all public and private schools to always join. We're looking forward for a bigger STEM Fair next year," said Sablan.

"Thank you to all the teachers who volunteered their time after school just to help with the organizing of the STEM Fair. Also to AmeriCorps, and students from Saipan Southern and Marianas high schools," he added.

Tinian Elementary School's Juris Gian Cabarles (May The Force Be With You) topped Cluster 1 for Kinder to second grade, while Garapan Elementary School's Drianna Jucutan (Don't Cry Over Spilled Oil) shed tears of joy while accepting her second place medal. Eamon Tang of Northern Marianas International School came in third with his Artist Robot entry.

John Anthony Tobongbanau Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, who placed third last year in the K-2 Cluster, returned to Rota with the first place medal in the Grades 3-5 Cluster with his Coconut Water Energy. Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Hellen Carhill's The Effect of Beverages on Bones came in second, while Mefi Norech of TES' Homemade Incubator was third.

Rota had a 1 and 3 finish in the Grades 6-8 category with How to Purify Water by ESFDB's Angelo Lucero coming on top and Cleaning Oil Spills by Jed Sta. Teresa of Grace Christian Academy-Rota placing third. Victoria Dela Cruz of Hopwood Junior High School, Salt Water Circuit, finished second.

Matt Moran of Mt. Carmel School poses with his winning project after last Saturday's 2016 Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Fair held at Saipan Southern High School.
JON PEREZ

Tinian Dynasty ordered to refrain from selling, transferring assets

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino to refrain from selling or transferring any of its property or assets, except in the normal course of business.

Manglona issued the order on Thursday afternoon after granting the request from two plane crash survivors, who are claiming that Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, owe them at least $1.3 million for breaching their settlement agreements.

After hearing from attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for survivors Dr. Jun Takimoto and Tomoyuki Nagata, Manglona granted the survivors' motion to enforce terms of their settlement agreement and the court's order.

According to the minutes of the hearing, the judge stated that all the facts represented had been adequately shown by the supporting documents, as well as the affidavits, and HKE's non-opposition to the motion.

Attorney George Anthony Long, counsel for HKE, filed a non-opposition for the hearing. Long also waived HKE's right to appear at the hearing.

Pierce informed the court that he had discussed the motion with Long on several occasions and both tried to reach a resolution.

According to Pierce in the motion, as of Feb. 2, 2016, HKE owes the Takimoto family and Nagata $714,612.33 and $547,198.71 in principal debt and interests, respectively.

Takimoto and Nagata moved the court to issue an order prohibiting HKE from the sale or transfer of its personal property, except in the normal course of business, such as in sale of food items to customers.

Pierce said his clients believe that the better way to proceed is through a freeze on sale/transfer and then hearing as soon as possible on how best the judgment may be paid.

By that procedure, the lawyer said, his clients are protected and the least disruption occurs to the operations of the Tinian Dynasty.

Takimoto and Nagata were among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006.

HKE settled the lawsuits filed by the survivors, including one filed by Takimoto and his family, and Nagata. The court subsequently dismissed the lawsuits in February 2010.

In dismissing the lawsuits, the court ordered that it "shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement agreement should the need arise."

Pierce said in April 2008, Tinian Dynasty ceased making payments on the agreements and the plaintiffs sued for torts and for breach of contract.

Tinian Dynasty settled the lawsuit and amended the initial settlement agreements.

Pierce said HKE has breached the settlement agreements in multiple ways.

The lawyer pointed out that payments were not made for the months of January and February 2016.

He said second, HKE filed for bankruptcy and third, the U.S. government seized assets from HKE, which assets were subsequently forfeited to the U.S.

Pierce asserted that the debts under the Takimoto and Nagata agreements are therefore accelerated with the entire amount now due and owing.

2016 MARCH-CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 30TH ANNIVERSARY 1985 - 2015 ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2016

MARCH

14 MONDAY
OPEN HOUSE - Saipan, Tinian, Rota
8:30am - 3:30pm

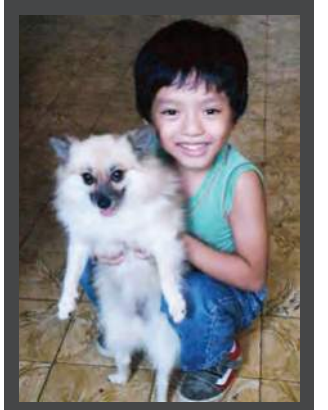
16 WEDNESDAY
STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING
Rota NMC Campus
8:00am - 12:00pm

18 FRIDAY
NMC BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION PRESENTATION

OPEN HOUSE
- Every Monday in the month of March
- Tour of CDA Office
- Video 30 years of CDA will run throughout the day
- Rank Logos for CDA
- Giveaways
- 1 Raffle Coupon per person Prize Drawing on Friday, March 31, 2016
- Light Refreshments

NMC Business Plan Competition Presentation
Friday, 10:00 a.m., Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building
Open to the Public

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday Nathan. Greetings from Daddy, Mommy, Ate Macky, and Hercules.

‘Disciplinary case vs Banes must be remanded to Chief Justice’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ruled that the disciplinary case against attorney David G. Banes must be remanded to the proper authority, the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Camacho granted Banes’ motion to strike the disciplinary complaint. The judge ruled that since the complaint has been stricken, the lawyer’s motion to approve settlement and other motions are moot.

Camacho determined that since no prosecuting counsel has been formally appointed by Chief Justice Alexandro Castro pursuant to the new disciplinary rules, this matter is improperly heard before the Superior Court.

Camacho noted that although a complaint was filed, it was filed by a disciplinary counsel appointed by Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja pursuant to the old disciplinary rules.

Atty. Mitchell Thompson, who chairs the Guam Bar Association Ethics Committee, filed the disciplinary complaint against Banes for violating a provision of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct when he allegedly revealed information learned in discussions with a prospective client.

Amjad Farhoud filed the complaint with the Disciplinary Committee of the CNMI Bar Association in August 2011.

The court appointed Thompson to prosecute the matter.

In response to the complaint, Banes, through counsel Robert O’Connor, has denied the allegations and asked the court to dismiss/strike the complaint and rule that he did not violate any ethical rule.

At the Nov. 10, 2015, hearing, attorneys Joseph E. Horey and Mark Scoggins served as counsel for Banes. Thompson appeared telephonically.

According to court records, Banes and Thompson were negotiating a settlement under the old disciplinary rules in January 2015.

Thompson stated that he forwarded a copy of a proposed settlement to attorney Timothy Bellas, the chair of the CNMI Bar Disciplinary Committee, on Feb. 13, 2015.

Camacho said if a settlement did exist, it was never acted upon by the Disciplinary Committee.

Thompson filed the complaint on June 2, 2015, as is required under the new disciplinary rules.

In support of Banes’ argument to strike, respondent argued that the new disciplinary rules were not constitutionally adopted by the CNMI Legislature.

Banes argued that the new disciplinary rules do not apply in this case, since the parties had reached a settlement before the new disciplinary rules took effect.

Banes also argued that, should the court find that there was no settlement reached prior to the new disciplinary rules taking effect, that the new disciplinary rules only apply prospectively, rather than retroactively.

Banes argued that the new disciplinary rules were not followed since no prosecuting counsel was appointed as is required under the new disciplinary rules, and that the complaint was untimely filed.

Thompson did not respond to all of the grounds argued by Banes. He specifically argued that Banes’ claims that the disciplinary counsel had not been properly appointed under the new disciplinary rules, and that the complaint is untimely were without merit.

In granting Banes’ motion to strike, Camacho ruled that this case was not settled prior to the enactment of the new disciplinary rules that took effect on Feb. 14, 2015.

Camacho said the disciplinary counsel may not unilaterally settle a matter without conferring with the disciplinary committee, and this has not occurred, regardless of whether or not Banes and Thompson had allegedly reached an agreement.

The judge pointed out that there was no settlement in this case.

Camacho also ruled that the new disciplinary rules apply to pending cases unless their application would not be feasible or would work an injustice.

Camacho said under the old disciplinary rules, the Superior Court presiding judge would appoint the disciplinary counsel.

The new disciplinary rules, on the other hand, require that a prosecuting counsel by appointed by the CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Camacho said in the time since the new disciplinary rules took effect, no prosecuting counsel has been appointed by the Chief Justice pursuant to the new disciplinary rules.

Attention,
Honda & Acura Drivers.

Please be aware that, we have a National Safety Improvement Campaign and recall under way to repair airbag inflators at no cost to you, in certain Honda and Acura vehicles (listed below). To see if your vehicle needs immediate attention, please check its recall status by taking one of the following steps:

GO to **recalls.honda.com** for Honda drivers,
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CALL 1-800-999-1009 and choose option 4 for Honda drivers,
or **1-800-382-2238** and choose option 4 for Acura drivers.
Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM Pacific Standard Time.

VISIT Joeten Motors, the authorized Honda dealer in **Saipan** to have it serviced. Or call us at (670) 234-5562.

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2006 Honda Ridgeline
2003-2006 Acura MDX
2002-2003 Acura TL
2003 Acura CL
2005 Acura RL

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670-484-5821
legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com

INFORMATION REQUIRED:
Map location
Total Area
Building area (if with existing building)
Title information
Asking price

KHS teacher to share 'Million Dollar Scholar' program

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School teacher Gerard van Gils said he is willing to share information on how other junior and high schools in the CNMI could set up their own "Million Dollar Scholar" program, which aims to prepare senior students in earning a college education.

van Gils along with Ana Lieto and Coreen Ramon, two of KHS' top 25 students, spoke to Rotary Club of Saipan members last Tuesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

He said that KHS principal Leila Staffler saw the need of helping seniors apply to universities in the U.S. mainland and also transition to college life. They took KHS' top 25 students and put them in a college preparatory class.

van Gils said they wrote to the parents of the 25 students and 21 agreed with their program.

"Kagman is the only public high school to offer a college preparatory class and the only one to offer a summer SAT. They take advanced classes like AP English, Japanese 2, calculus, and college preparation," said van Gils.

van Gils added each of the 21 students has applied to at least two major universities, took the SATs twice, and took a summer SAT preparation course. Twenty of them applied for the Gates Millenium Scholarship, 20 with the Asian/Pacific Islander Scholarship, and 16 at the Quest-Bridge Match Scholarship.

"We are willing to share how we started the program. We want other schools to also have their own college preparatory classes where they help the seniors go to college," van Gils said.

van Gils added what the program needs now are partners and advocates to help them achieve their goal of raising $1 million for the school's first batch of scholars.

"Good ideas don't need advertisements, what it needs are advocates. We are looking for people who can help Ana and Coreen, who both want to go to college," said van Gils,

Lieto and Ramon, who both have GPAs of not lower than 3.70, read parts of the essays they submitted as part of a school project. Both got accepted to five universities in the mainland and are also the first to go to college in their respective families.

Lieto, a Gates Millenium Scholar, got accepted to Eastern Oregon University, Grand Canyon University, Washington State University, Dixie State University, and Chaminade University, while Ramon got accepted to Dixie State, Eastern Oregon, Utah State, University of Wyoming, and University of Colorado.

JON PEREZ

Kagman High School teacher Gerard van Gils, center, stands between his students Coreen Ramon, left, and Ana Lieto after they attended the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan last Tuesday at the Giovanni's restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Military to conduct training at W-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Navy and Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- March 14 from midnight to 11:55pm
- March 15-17 from 8am to 10pm
- March 18 from 8am to 6:30pm

The Navy and Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 14 and 17 from 9am to 9pm
- March 15-16 and 18 from 9:30am to 9pm

The general public— especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2332

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE FOR A SUSTAINABILITY/ FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CNMI'S TRAVEL INDUSTRY

Closing Date: April 8, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-081

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 23, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A JETSKI FOR THE DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/H.O.M.E-001

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April 1, 2016 TIME: 3:00 PM

OFFICE FURNITURE FOR HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR MATERNAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD (H.O.M.E.) VISITING PROGRAM

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/CGC-002

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April1, 2016 TIME: 10:00 AM

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CGC PREVENTION SERVICE UNIT

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF P&S

CDA

NOTICE OF SALE
CDA FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby gives notice that it is seeking interested buyers, bids and proposals for the fee simple purchase or the leasing of its foreclosed properties. The specific foreclosed properties available for sale or lease are:

LOT NO.	LOCATION	SIZE (sqm)	DESCRIPTION	ASKING PRICE
ROTA PROPERTIES Wednesday, March 16, 2016 NMC Campus after the Stakeholders' Meeting				
1	230 R 01	Tatgua	9,384.5	Vacant	75,000
2	167 R 03	Isang	30,000	Vacant	60,000
SAIPAN PROPERTIES Friday, March 18, 2016 2:00pm CDA Conference Room				
1	Tr 22805-1-4	As Teo	2,241	Vacant	35,000
2	1674-NEW-5-2	Kannat Tabla	1,401	Vacant	25,000
3	012 G 87	Kagman	1,010	Vacant	15,000
4	012 G 88	Kagman	1,130	Vacant	15,000
5	012 G 89	Kagman	902	Vacant	12,000
6	278-15	i-Denni	4,928	Vacant	65,000

Fee Simple Purchase and Auctions (A) & Leasehold or Ground Lease with Option to Purchase (B)

1. Interested bidders and buyers are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of CDA in the property are being sold **"AS IS"** and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or improvements or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer or lessee.
2. CDA reserves the following rights:
   a. To withdraw any or all of the listed properties before sale or lease or before a bid for such property is accepted, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   b. To reject any and all bids or proposals.

Interested persons may contact Nanette Estrada at 532-9408 (ROTA) and Christy Kintol at 234-6245 ext. 310 (SAIPAN) for more information or to inspect properties, appraisals and or photos.

DCCA annual progress report out today

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce that today, March 14, 2016, its Annual Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2015 will be available online through its website, www.dcca.gov.mp.

Outgoing DCCA secretary Laura T. Ogumoro stated, "The report is a testament to the hard work the staff put into ensuring that all program goals and objectives are met for the year. Their leadership and commitment paved the way for successful implementation of DCCA's programs in line with the administration's goals and objectives."

Hard copies of the report, as they are limited in number, will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, contact Bedu Pangelinan at 664-2587/88. ***(PR)***

Vendors invited to participate at NMC's Charter Day

Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's 35th annual Charter Day celebration on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2016.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are encouraged to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information distribution.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces will be on April 1, 2016. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible. The booth fee is $250 for businesses and organizations and $100 for NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations. For more information about reserving booth space, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6774. For more information about the annual Charter Day, contact Greg Sablan at 237-6795 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Food vendors from last year's Northern Marianas College Charter Day offered a variety of delicious food and drinks. To sign up for booth space for the upcoming Charter Day, visit marianas.edu.

Message from GOP President James Ada to all Members of the Republican Party of the NMI Association

The US Presidential Caucus
is scheduled for March 15, 2016,
6:00pm at the
Minachom Atdao, Saipan.

For Tinian and Rota,
please contact your party chairs.

This ad is paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-005

WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT, SAILING DRIVE, DANDAN (W12-022D)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Water Main Extension Project in Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work consists of the installation of approximately 940 LF of new 8-inch PVC water line, along with approximately 500 LF of new 2" PVC water line. It will also involve the reconnection of new and existing customers onto the new waterlines within the project area.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **75 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-005, Water Main Extension Project, Sailing Drive, Dandan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 18, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 3, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer – via email john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-005

WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT, SAILING DRIVE, DANDAN (W12-022D)

Project: 8-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

ADDENDUM No. 1

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying registered prospective bidders of the following revisions to CUC-IFB-16-005:

1. The following shall replace the deadline for the Bid Submittal Proposal in the following sections: Invitation for Bids and Instruction to Bidders and all other sections of the bid documents which reference the bid submittal proposal deadline:

   The Bid Submittal Proposal Deadline is extended to March 28, 2016 by 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time.

2. The following shall replace the Contract Performance Time in the following sections: Invitation for Bids, Notice to Bidders and Instruction to Bidders and all other sections of the bid documents and contract documents which reference the Contract Performance Time:

   An additional 75 calendar days is added to the Project Performance Time. The new project performance time period is 150 calendars days from the date of the Notice-to-Proceed.

3. The following shall replace Section 01150 Measurement and Payments, Item no. 1- Mobilization and Demobilization Invitation and all other sections of the bid documents and contract documents which reference Bid Item no. 1:

   Payment for Mobilization and Demobilization shall include compensation for moving equipment, materials, tools to and from the site, all permits, surveying, project sign, staging areas, temporary utilities and site office, daily and final clean-up and all other incidental items require to mobilize to and demobilize from the jobsite.

4. *Please note that the Davis Bacon Act does not apply to the Safe Drinking Water Act funded projects. Thus, the Wage Rate Determination section of the project has been deleted based on the advisement of the USEPA.*

All other terms and conditions in the project Bid Documents and Technical specifications, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Obama's effort on the Middle East is pointless

President Barack Obama is assessing whether to try once more to revive a Middle East peace process, which might end the raw, violent relations between Israelis and Palestinians. Vice President Joe Biden arrived in the region Tuesday for meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, in a bid to test the waters.

A quick glance at the situation suggests the Obama administration would be wasting its time, even though relations between Israelis and Palestinians are worsening and the frequency of violent attacks in this third intifada is increasing. Most American leaders continue to believe that a two-state solution—Israel and an independent Palestine living side by side with agreed-upon borders—is the only sustainable resolution of the problem, which dates from 1948.

The Israelis are increasingly polarized over the question of whether to have a Jewish or a democratic state. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Obama do not hit it off personally, an enmity sharpened by Netanyahu's unsuccessful effort to sabotage the Iran nuclear accord.

The Palestinians are in effect now bereft of leadership. In addition to the continuing split and friction between Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank, the presidential term of Mahmoud Abbas, now 80, expired in 2009. Elections have been on hold for years. Thus, even in the unlikely event that the Israelis were prepared to come to the table, there is little reason to believe the Palestinians could offer a coherent negotiating position.

Thus, in spite of the fact that Secretary of State John Kerry would undoubtedly be willing to attempt another major negotiation, as he did in the extended talks between Iran and the international partners, the current positions of the Israelis and the Palestinians and the exasperation of Americans after previous failed efforts, probably render any move at this point a waste of time.

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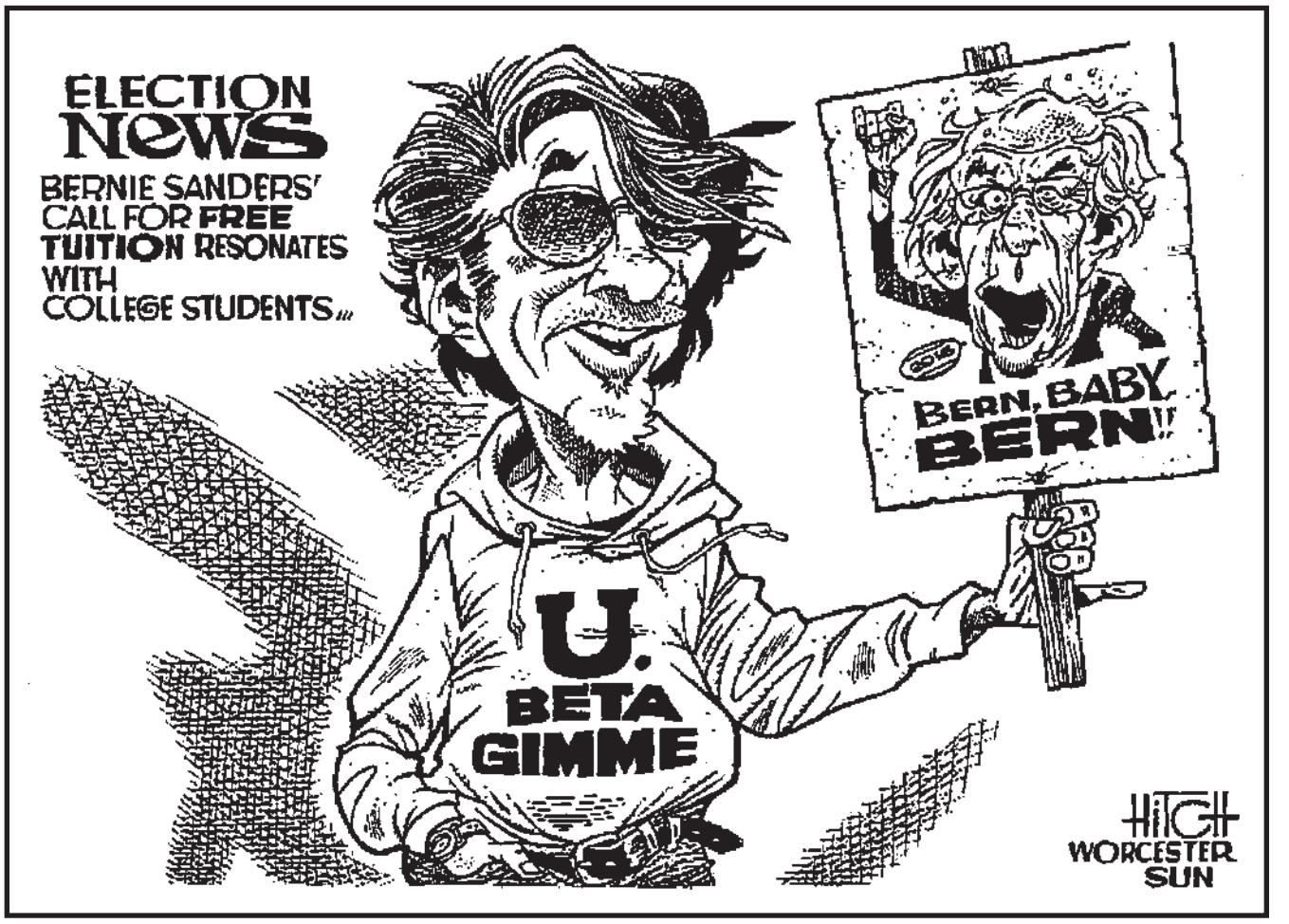


Valentine's in March

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Maybe. On Saipan last Friday was a post-Valentine movie, *Always be my Maybe*, a teaser for the Pinoy response to monogamous commitment still the legal form of marital bliss. The divorce is supplanted by the dissolution of a marriage through separate properties but without the option to remarry, or, annulment, e.g., if the marriage was not consummated, or is based on a lie. A marriage is declared invalid when provisions of the nation's family code such as incest and underage coupling are crossed.

As a context to the movie, the reality that the Philippines remains as the only country that still bans divorce (well, the Vatican does, too, but it has less than 500 citizens), and idolizes the virtue of singular faithfulness in long lasting relationships adjudged true at by a certain social strata purely on the basis of sexual fidelity. The Roman Catholic Church along with Reformation cousins transplanted the chivalrous romantic notion of Europe in their mission in Pea Eye.

To hold this context in mind makes it easier to understand the movie's held back "maybe" character, the propensity of current millennials to withhold half-baked commitments until it is time, or it is too late for "true love" to happen.

One need only stroll down Paseo de Marianas to hear a Filipina's sob story of how she was led to strip on stage, or dress half naked down the stairway as a come-on to curious visitors because she was lead down the path of unrighteousness by deception, abuse, or misuse. In stark objective contrast, Sino ladies just want to know if one desired a $60 or a $100 service!

Half of the *Maybe* movie story revolves around two folks who hoped for a lasting relationship with their current beloveds only to be frustrated by a parting of ways. The forsaken duo saw themselves as victims of someone's wiles leading to a separation rather than as full participants in the eventuality all along. They met and joined forces to see if they can help each other find better replacements of their exes.

The protagonists in the movie are Jake del Mundo (Gerald Anderson) with Tracey, and Kristina "Tintin" Paraiso (Arci Muñoz) with Jeric. Five years of being together in their respective relationships, Jake and Tintin longed for permanence. Jake proposed but was told by Tracey that he was a year too late; she found someone else.

In the same fashion, Tintin expected Jeric to propose after he led on that he wanted to give her something, only to be handed an electronic drive that she lent him containing movies. She also discovers an announcement on her smartphone of the object of Jeric already committed to someone else. Contrived? Yes. But this is the cinema, so who cares?

The plot follows after Jake and Tintin met and began to scheme on ways to assist each other find replacements of their exes, having mutually declared that one is not the type of the other, of course, only to find in the course of the movie their inner feelings headed in the opposite direction.

A Pinoy film though the actor's physique are more European than Malay. Jake easily fits an Italian playboy as Tintin can pout her way through the colds of upper Michigan. No matter. What renders the movie recognizably Pinay, never mind the electronic gadgets of current milllenials abundant nor a barrio *dalaginding* see her particulars in the picture, is its affinity to the illusion of "true love."

Jilted by Tracey, Jake who is third party in a lucrative family business indulges in six months of self-pity holed-out in a resort he owns by the beach; likewise, Tintin goes schizophrenic in swings of self-affirmation and self-destruction after Jeric brushes her aside. She plays a make-up artist who earns enough to afford a car and lives in a *calle* middleclass neighborhood in the Metro.

A Tintin self-expression posted online goes viral and earns notoriety. Jake nurses his despair; Tintin keeps up the facade with a bold face. She hurts deeply and badly but won't show it. Then the two forlorn lovers met at his resort, shared the intoxicating ennui of the bottle until the morning, told each other their tragic life stories and found out that they were "in the same wavelength."

Divorce-less Philippines where the romantic notion of "true love" still prevails, seeks the one "we are meant to be forever with," and hold it at premium value. This renders the story recognizable. Two forsaken lovers find true love in each other's embrace is a common *tao* escapist dream.

In the Metro city, they launch the search to replace the exes but were drawn closer to each other. She nudges him to fulfill his passion in photography; she ends up posing as the model for his camera. A little hump on the plot has Tracy and Jeric come back into the picture with a twist on the rye but clenches commitments after Jakes fit of callousness and jealousy on reluctant Tintin.

It is good entertainment never mind that the quest for meaningful reality might take a backseat behind the wonder of imaginings.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Boy-abusing women no different than girl-abusing men

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Life is unpredictable. Just ask Hillary Clinton. I mean, you wake up Tuesday morning planning to give a big electoral hug to Michigan, and you go to bed not caring if arsenic starts flowing through the tap water in Flint. You just never know how the day is going to pan out, so to speak.

This week, I thought I was going to write about politics yet again. I figured there would be some new expose about Donald Trump's trumpet or Clinton's hard drive (which sound, uncomfortably, like the same thing). But except for a few more (yawn) primaries, nothing new came over the wire.

In the end, though, I found my topic: a human specimen that surpassed even the candidates in mediocrity.

On Monday, a former swim coach and counselor named Emily Feeney admitted to having stalked a 16-year-old student at Malvern Prep, a private Catholic school in suburban Philadelphia. Feeney didn't actually plead to "stalking," and the sanitized term used by the news reports was "tried to seduce," but the evidence presented to the court makes it pretty darn clear that this was no wink-wink, ha-ha, Mrs. Robinson scenario.

Feeney sent thousands of texts over a period of months, threatening the student, cajoling him, transmitting suggestive photos and even cornering him in her classroom. At one point, she held the promise of a Harvard scholarship over his head. At another point, she kissed him. There is no word on whether he kissed back, but there are strong indications that her attentions were unwelcome. One of the texts made public was from the victim, who tried to get his stalker to leave him alone by writing: "I'm not interested in you end of story. I'm 16. I'm not into you."

You would think this would shame a pre-menopausal woman with young children to get a grip on something other than her students. But the harassment continued until someone reported her to the police.

And after getting the best lawyer money could buy and a sympathetic hearing from the prosecutor, Feeney pled guilty and got … five years probation. Not jail time. Not house arrest. Probation, and registration as a sex offender.

Her attorney was quoted as saying that "This case involved a single kiss." I would respectfully suggest (and it's really hard being respectful in this type of a situation) that the case was about a lot more than a single kiss. It was about thousands of harassing messages and photos and attempts by a horny middle aged woman to steal a teenager's adolescence from him.

When I put that on Facebook, I wasn't surprised to find that some people had a hard time seeing what all the fuss was about. There is a strange blind spot that we have in this society about boys who are sexually harassed by older women. One of my Facebook friends implied that he doubted the boy was "traumatized." But we have no problem reacting when the roles are reversed and a male coach sends suggestive texts to a female student. It's a not-so-subtle way of saying that our girls are more fragile, and precious, than our boys.

That should have changed in the decades since the priest abuse scandal was exposed, but it hasn't. Speaking of which, imagine if Emily Feeney were actually the Rev. Emlen Feeney, and he'd done what she admits having done. There would be a move to burn him out of the rectory.

But a blonde, affluent and educated female of a certain age gets off with a literal slap on the texting hand, primarily because we still haven't acknowledged that boys, and men, can be victims of the same type of horrific abuse as women.

My friend Glenn works in the field, and he made this wise and perceptive comment: "From reporting possible abuse to prosecution, women absolutely get breaks. Imagine the outcry if a male coach did the exact same thing to a female on his team." Yes, imagine. Except we don't have to imagine. We've seen those men get jail time.

Sexually predatory women are not Mary Kay Letourneau one-offs. They are real, and they should be treated the same way any other rapist, abuser or predatory is treated. Society should not devalue its boys because there is some archaic sense that it's a compliment for a woman to seduce a younger man.

I remember when I first experienced this gender disconnect about sexual abuse. I was preparing a battered spouse visa for a client, and needed to get a psychologist to write a report on the harm being suffered by the immigrant spouse. When I told the therapist that the spouse was a man from Italy, she actually laughed at me. Apparently, males are not able to be victims in this society, especially if the victimizer is a woman.

As the aunt of a beautiful little boy, I find that to be despicably short-sighted.

I once taught in a boys' school, and one of the students asked me out to the prom (which by the way was the only time I was asked to a school dance). I smiled and responded, "That is so flattering, I'm really touched, thank you and not in a million years."

That doesn't make me special. That makes me a marginally decent human being who understands that gender is irrelevant to trauma. In fact, you could say that boys suffer more from unwanted sexual contact because society still isn't ready to take them as seriously as their sisters and girlfriends.

That's why Emily Feeney got a pass, for making much more than a pass.

At the front with Kurdish forces

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.

MAKHMOUR, Iraq—From a fortified Kurdish hilltop bunker I could overlook the frontline town of Gwer and across the Great Zab river to stands of trees and derelict buildings where Islamic State fighters are dug in. On Monday night, Islamic State rockets whizzed over this bunker.

Several kilometers to the rear, framed by dusty hills, sits Black Tiger Camp, the spartan headquarters of Gen. Sirwan Barzani, the Kurdish commander of the Gwer-Makhmour region. The camp gets its name from the 1990s, when the burly, mustachioed Barzani led peshmerga fighters in their rebellion against Saddam Hussein and earned the nickname "Black Tiger."

After Saddam was ousted, Barzani became a successful businessman, but he returned to battle to fight the Islamic State. Now he is at the center of the action: Makhmour is also headquarters for the Iraqi army command in charge of leading the long-awaited liberation of Mosul, the heart of the Islamic State-occupied territory.

In recent weeks, around 3,500 Iraqi troops have moved up to the Makhmour front and many more will be arriving. Senior Kurdish and Iraqi officers confer here regularly, along with U.S. officers who provide coordination and assistance.

A successful Mosul operation is essential to the eventual destruction of the Islamic State. "Mosul is the head (of the so-called caliphate)," Barzani says. "If it stays, (the Islamic State) will stay as a state." But, when it comes to the impending offensive, the general is a very worried man.

His 15,000 peshmerga are responsible for the hottest sector, but he doesn't have enough weapons. "We still lack ammunition, heavy machine guns, antitank weapons, still no night weapons," he says.

The Baghdad government doesn't pay for Kurdish arms or provide salaries to their fighters, and the strapped Kurdish Regional Government is hard-pressed to do so. The day I arrived, peshmerga were celebrating because they'd gotten paid for the first time in three months.

"We thank the Americans, but the weapons are not enough," Barzani says. "We are being attacked every night and I don't have enough mortars to answer them along a 120-kilometer front line." The Kurds are frustrated that Washington delivers heavy weapons to Baghdad but they are not passed on to the Kurds.

Barzani is also worried because he sees no clear plan for the offensive. "They (the Iraqi army) say there is a plan, but we are still waiting," he complains. "There is no formal plan until now."

The general says he still doesn't know which Iraqi forces will lead the operation.

The Kurds, whose tough, motivated fighters have retaken the bulk of liberated territory, don't want to enter the Sunni Arab parts of Mosul. The Iraqi counterterrorism forces, their army's best, recently helped liberate Ramadi. But, says Barzani, "I don't know if the CTS is in the plan."

Nor, complains the general, is it clear if the Iranian-backed Shiite militiamen of the Popular Mobilization Forces will take part. Leaders of these militias are keen to join the fight, but Kurds rightly believe their participation could lead to sectarian slaughter of Sunnis.

The biggest worry is whether the Iraqi army is capable of liberating the center of Mosul on its own. Army units fled when Mosul fell, and collapsed when the Islamic State took Ramadi, leaving huge stores of U.S.-made weapons to fall into the Islamic State's hands.

"I worry that they will leave weapons to Da'esh," he says, using the an Arabic name for the Islamic State. "No one gives us those weapons, but the army left them to Da'esh and we (had to) take them from Da'esh.

"This system is not cost free. I have lost 131 men."

U.S. officers who have recently been involved in the training of 23,000 Iraqi forces at five bases in Iraq proper and Kurdistan are more optimistic, in part because the 570 U.S. trainers have focused on lessons learned from past debacles. For example, current training includes maneuvering in urban areas, along with obstacle breaching and countering improvised explosive devices.

"Fighting in urban areas is an incredibly important part of train and equip," says Col. Scott Naumann, of the 10th Mountain Division, part of the team at Makhmour. "Da'esh will be defeated only when Kurds and Iraqis are working together." The joint command center at Makhmour, he adds, "is designed to help facilitate the relationship between Kurds and Iraqis and build trust."

But conversing with Barzani, it quickly becomes clear that building trust is still a work in progress. All the more so when the Iraqi government funds Shiite militias that are proxies for Iran, but still refuses to pay or arm the peshmerga, who stopped the Islamic State advance in 2014.

It will be disastrous if Baghdad attempts a Mosul operation prematurely — before it addresses the concerns raised by Barzani, not to mention the question of who will secure multiethnic Mosul after the Islamic State is ousted. There is good reason why the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, recently told legislators that a Mosul operation shouldn't happen this year.

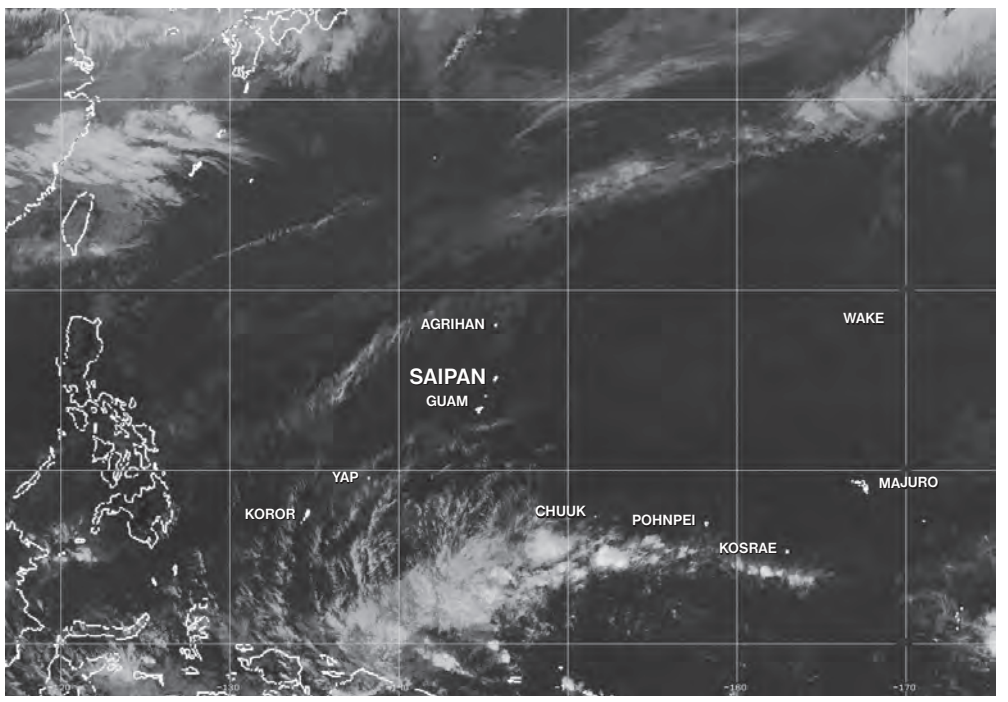
As I departed Camp Black Tiger, Barzani was joining a caravan of 20 SUVs that included U.S. and Iraqi officers and was headed to a meeting at the Joint Operations Room. Hopefully, U.S. advisers will put the brakes on any effort by the Iraqi army to mount an offensive too soon.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward through 25N155E to 21N143E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found well northwest of the Marianas along and up to 300 miles north of this boundary. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap, south of a line from 7N148E to EQ134E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and near Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 5N148E to 5N160E to 3N165E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲89	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼34
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼60
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Manila	Sunny	▲93	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
New York	Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Osaka	Showers	▲50	▼41
Paris	Sunny	▲53	▼34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼33
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼46
Salem	Thunderstorms	▲51	▼40
San Francisco	Rain	▲59	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼29
Tokyo	Rain	▲49	▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲57	▼48

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:36 AM	11:41 PM
Tuesday	11:30 AM	
Wednesday	12:24 PM	12:38 AM
Thursday	1:18 PM	1:32 AM
Friday	2:11 PM	2:24 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Triple J Saipan gives $5K ETC to NMTI

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute recently received a donation of Educational Tax Credit from Triple J Saipan in the amount of $5,000. The contribution by one of Saipan's largest business enterprises is welcome news as the institute is currently expanding on its infrastructure at the Lower Base, Saipan campus. The trade school received the news of such a donation from Triple J CEO and chair Robert H. Jones himself during a recent chance meeting with Agnes McPhetres, NMTI CEO.

"This marks a new era for the institute as it embarks on satisfying the job skill needs of the community. The donation is our commitment to the cause as we anticipate NMTI producing students that we as a business need as the end of the CW period approaches," said Randy Steele, general manager of Triple J Motors.

NMTI is currently expanding its Culinary Arts classroom to accommodate for the growing interest in the community for such a trade. The current classroom can only hold 10 students, while the newer space can hold a capacity of 20 students during a class session. At the student orientation held recently, the new cohort of students taking on the trade climbed to a total of 18 interested individuals. The program has consistently taken on students in the area and foresees that as more people graduate, the greater the interest in such a career as many of our people enjoy being around the food industry in some capacity.

According to Victorino Cepeda, NMTI director of External Relations, "the funding received from Triple J Saipan will be allocated solely for the expansion of NMTI's Culinary Arts program. The funds donated get us one step closer towards getting our much needed equipment. We anticipate spending a bit over $40,000 on the equipment alone. Equipment of this nature is not the ordinary household cooking ranges or refrigerators if one can imagine. Providing hands-on training is a bit trickier financially than a regular academic setting as commercial equipment is needed to provide students with the experiential learning required by such careers."

McPhetres further reiterated the school's gratefulness for the contribution by saying, "As a CNMI stakeholder, Triple J's actions speaks volumes. They are committed to the well-being of our islands and the future that lies ahead. I cannot thank them enough as I know there are other worthy organizations out there vying for such financial support as well. So on behalf of the students, faculty, administrators, and NMTI Board of Directors I extend an *Un dankulu na si Yu'us ma'ase yan Oloomway reemi."* ***(PR)***

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Date 3/10/2016
Pay to the order of NORTH MARIANAS TRADES INST.
$5000.00
FIVE-THOUSAND & 00/100
E.T.C.
TRIPLE J SAIPAN, Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Saipan recently donated $5,000 worth of Educational Tax Credit to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Photo shows NMTI officials receive the ceremonial check from Triple J executives at Triple J Motors.

Women's Summit to be held at Kanoa Resort

Following last week's widely attended Women's Meet & Greet dinner sponsored by the Women's Affairs Office, the CNMI Women's Association has now turned its attention to gearing up for the upcoming two-day Women's Summit, which will be held March 30-31, 2016, from 7:30am to 4pm at the Kanoa Resort. The first Women's Summit was held in 2013.

The theme for this year's global campaign is "Pledge For Parity," and the Women's Summit will feature two days of presentations, networking, financial literacy workshops, free health screenings, and a job fair for participants. Registration will be capped at 175 participants for both days.

Worldwide, women continue to contribute to social, economic, cultural, and political achievement. "Women have much to celebrate, but we must continue to strive for parity in all areas. The 2016 Women's Summit will explore the question 'Why Women? Why Now? Why You?' and will include speakers from a cross-section of the community," said Jacqueline Che, Women's Summit chair and CWA board of director.

This year marks the 105th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, educational, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future.

To register for the Women's Summit, please contact Patricia Mareham, CWA Case Worker, at 233-8978 Monday to Friday 1pm-5pm, email p.mareham@cnmiwomen.org, or visit the Garapan Community Development Center next to the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan.

More details will be shared and added to the CNMI Women's Association website www.cnmiwomen.org, Facebook pagewww.facebook.com/cnmiwomen.org, and other media platforms.

The CWA's mission is to "empower women for leadership as guardians of our *guinaha* (assets); both tangible and intangible; to include political, economic, and social leadership. The CWA provides education and training opportunities, mentorship, advocacy, and information and referral services in a culturally competent and nurturing way. The CWA fosters *konfiansia* (self-confidence) and commitment in women to maximize their potential to positively impact our families".

The CNMI Women's Association is funded by the Community Services Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Department of Youth Services. ***(PR)***

FOR POSSESSION AND INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE 'ICE'

Lizama sentenced to 96 months in prison

United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced last March 7 that defendant Sean Anthony Lizama was sentenced by Chief Judge, District Court of Guam Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Lizama was sentenced to serve 96 months incarceration followed by three years of supervised release, with credit for time served.

Lizama pled guilty on Jan. 15, 2015, to attempted possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. Section 846(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C). Lizama attempted to receive 214.9 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride on Oct. 16, 2013. The Drug Enforcement Administration Forensic Laboratory determined that the methamphetamine had a purity level of 100 percent.

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Postal Inspectors and Special Agents from the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations.

Limtiaco notes that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) Initiative, a nationwide commitment to aggressively prosecute defendants who illegally possess firearms, engage in violent crimes, drug distribution and gang involvement. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rosetta San Nicolas. ***(PR)***

Bridge Investment Group donates bike racks

SAN JOSE, Tinian— Bridge Investment Group, LLC presented a donation of bicycle racks to the Tinian Elementary School and the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School. The students and staff who use their bicycles for transportation to and from school now have a designated area to safely secure them.

"Many of our children and staff use their bicycles as transportation to get to school and work. The bicycle rack is a great addition to the facility. Our students and staff now have a secure place for their bicycles. The Colts family would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Bridge Investment Group for the continuous support and in kind donations to Tinian Elementary School," said Lou Connie Manglona, principal of TES.

"We believe this is one great way to give back to the community and our youth. We are very mindful of the needs in our community and we are committed in our efforts to reach out and help," said Bridge Investment Group in a statement. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Joseph Villagomez, Bonifacio Gonzales, Vincent Cing, Terry Sanchez, Arley Long, principal Lou Connie Manglona, Nurul Amin, Rolando Palilio, Benjamin Reyes, Steve Mendiola, and TES students pose for a photo with the bicycle racks recently donated by Bridge Investment Group, LLC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Regina Palacios, Richard Farrell, Peter A. Villagomez Sr., Vice Principal Martina Diaz, Arley Long, Joseph Mendiola Jr., Nurul Amin, Rolando Palilio, Benjamin Reyes, Steve Mendiola, Joseph Villagomez, and TJSHS students pose for a photo with the bicycle racks recently donated by Bridge Investment Group, LLC.

Business

China's central banker says economy can hit growth target

BEIJING (AP)—In a new effort to dispel anxiety about China's cooling economy, the central bank governor said Saturday the country can hit this year's official growth target and Beijing has no need to weaken its currency to boost sagging exports.

Zhou Xiaochuan's comments at a news conference during China's national legislature add to a high-level public relations campaign by Beijing to reassure global financial markets about the stability of the world's second-largest economy following stock and currency turmoil.

Zhou expressed confidence the economy can hit its official growth target, which the ruling Communist Party lowered this year to 6.5 to 7 percent from last year's "about 7 percent." Growth fell last year to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent, though that still was among the world's highest.

Economic growth has declined steadily over the past five years as Beijing carries out a marathon effort to nurture domestic demand and reduce reliance on a worn-out model based on trade and investment.

An unexpectedly sharp decline over the past two years prompted fears of a politically dangerous spike in job losses and prompted Beijing to shore up growth with mini-stimulus measures based on higher spending on building roads and other public works. But officials including Premier Li Keqiang have said longer-term gains have to come from reform, not more spending.

Productivity is improving and planned economic reforms should spur Chinese consumer demand, "so I believe we can realize these economic growth targets," said Yi Gang, a deputy governor who appeared with Zhou at the news conference.

He was responding to a question about whether Beijing might be forced to loosen credit controls in order to meet its target, potentially increasing rising debt levels that have caused unease in financial markets.

If the economy performs as expected, Zhou said "there would be no need to have stimulus from monetary policy."

The ruling party's reputation for skillful economic management has been battered over the past year by a stock market collapse that wiped out some $5 trillion in share value and turmoil over China's currency, the yuan.

The premier and other officials have spent the past three weeks giving emphatic public assurances their economy is under control.

Zhou, 68, is respected abroad and is seen as an advocate of pragmatic, market-based financial reforms aimed at making China's state-dominated economy more efficient. He was retained in his job past the normal retirement age of 65 in what appeared to be an effort by a new generation of Chinese leaders who took power in 2012 to reassure financial markets of policy continuity.

Also Saturday, Zhou tried to dispel fears Beijing might weaken its yuan to boost exports. That concern spread after a surprise introduction in August of a new mechanism to set the yuan's state-controlled exchange rate led to a decline in its value against the dollar. Beijing spent tens of billions of dollars to slow the decline.

Pointing to China's $600 billion global trade surplus last year, Zhou said Chinese exporters are competitive and don't need artificial support.

"We don't have to resort to exchange rate measures," he said.

AP

A television camera monitor shows Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, as he speaks during a press conference in Beijing, Saturday, March 12, 2016.

Oil price appears to have 'bottomed out,' energy agency says

PARIS (AP)—The organization that represents major oil-consuming nations said Friday that signs of a market that has "bottomed out" are emerging.

U.S. crude prices jumped to a high for the year. Brent crude, used as a global benchmark, hit a high for the year Tuesday and rose 1 percent Friday.

Energy companies have been shutting down rigs and laying off thousands of workers as oil prices plunged to around $30 per barrel, from well over $100 per barrel just two years ago.

A broad retreat by the energy sector played out again Friday on both fronts.

The number of oil and natural gas rigs active in the U.S. fell for the 12th consecutive week, according to Baker Hughes on Friday, to 480. That's the lowest level in decades, and perhaps the fewest since the earliest days of the oil drilling industry.

And Texas driller Anadarko Petroleum Corp. said that it would cut 1,000 workers, 17 percent of its work force.

The pain at Anadarko and other energy companies may finally be translating into a reduction of a massive and global oversupply of oil, the International Energy Agency said Friday.

OPEC production tumbled by 90,000 barrels a day last month, the IEA said. U.S. production that had surged due to new drilling technology, is expected to fall by almost 530,000 barrels a day this year, according to the IEA.

The Paris organization, however, said that the recovery in crude prices in recent days from multi-year lows does not mean that there will be a significant and sustained rebound in the short-term. There have been sharp declines in demand, particularly in the United States and China, it said.

China, the world's second-largest oil consumer, is attempting to quell anxiety over a slowing economy and labor unrest. Earlier this month, it cut its growth expectations for the year.

Goldman Sachs said on Friday that production is unlikely to increase in the U.S. until 2017, and that prices could volatile in the next few months.

Analysts with Goldman said that if U.S. drillers ramp up production with any rise in oil prices, "we believe a self-defeating rally in oil prices/equities could result."

The report buoyed stocks of energy companies Friday, making the sector the second-best performer on the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nissan recalls 47,538 Leaf vehicles for brake relay problem

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nissan is recalling more than 47,000 Leaf electric cars in the U.S. and Canada, citing a possible brake malfunction. Documents posted by U.S. safety regulators Saturday say the problem is centered on a relay inside the cars' electronic brake booster. Very cold temperatures can cause the relay to fail, requiring more driver effort to operate the brakes. That could increase the risk of crashing. No accidents or injuries have been reported to Nissan.The automaker will notify owners who need repairs. Dealers will reprogram software that controls the recalled cars' brake control, free of charge. The recall includes 46,859 Leafs in the U.S. and another 679 in Canada from the 2013 through 2015 model years. The models in the recall were manufactured between Nov. 19, 2012 and July 31.

Riders thankful to hear New Jersey Transit strike averted

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Riders were expressing their thanks and relief Saturday after learning that New Jersey Transit and its rail workers had reached a tentative deal to avert a strike that was due to start Sunday morning. They also were thrilled to hear Gov. Chris Christie say that they won't have to worry about fare hikes for a while to cover the cost of the settlement. The deal, announced Friday between the transit agency and its rail workers, averted a strike that would have thrown Monday's commute into New York into chaos. It put to rest a dispute that has been percolating for nearly five years, when the last contract expired. "There's no way I would have even tried to get to work on Monday. It would have been a zoo," Ron Simmons, a Hamilton Township resident who works for a financial firm in New York City, said Saturday while waiting for a train on the Trenton transit center. "I didn't think a strike would happen, but in this day and age you can't be 100 percent sure of anything. I'm just glad they found common ground."

France: Doctors who treated Germanwings pilot would not talk

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Doctors who treated Germanwings pilot Andreas Lubitz for depression and mental illness before he killed 150 people by crashing into the Alps last year refused to speak with French investigators who were trying to prevent a similar sequence from ever happening again, one victim's father said Saturday.

The French investigators told relatives at a meeting in Barcelona that the German doctors were not required to talk about Lubitz's medical conditions under German privacy laws and they didn't, even though the 27-year-old also died in the March 24, 2015 plane crash.

The experts from France's BEA crash investigation agency did obtain detailed German medical records about Lubitz but "they emphasized that the doctors, those who treated him, refused to give any information," said Robert Tansill Oliver, who attended the Germanwings relatives' meeting.

The French investigators told the relatives that one of their safety recommendations would be a requirement that doctors provide authorities with information about pilots' mental health issues.

The BEA on Saturday declined to comment on the closed-door meetings with relatives, who were shown a slide show but given no written materials.

The meetings Saturday in Barcelona and Bonn briefed the victims' relatives about a BEA report being released Sunday that is expected to make recommendations to help aviation agencies and airlines around the world prevent similar crashes. Most of the victims of Flight 9525 from Barcelona to Duesseldorf were from Spain and Germany.

Germanwings and Lufthansa have strongly denied any wrongdoing in the crash, insisting that the co-pilot was certified fit to fly. In the months before the crash, Lubitz visited 41 doctors, and none warned his employer or authorities that Lubitz might be too ill to fly. Germany's confidentiality laws prevent sensitive personal information from being widely shared, although the law allows doctors to suspend patient privacy if they believe there is a danger to the person's safety or that of others.

Oliver's 37-year-old son, Robert Oliver Calvo, died in the crash, leaving behind a wife and two children. His son was an American who lived in Spain and managed real estate for the Barcelona-based clothing chain Desigual.

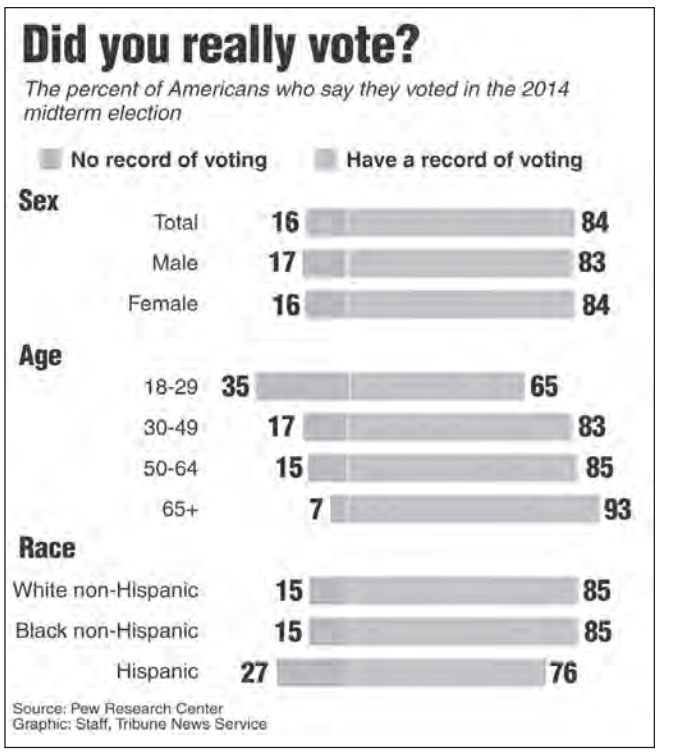
Investigators say Lubitz deliberately crashed the plane into a French mountainside. He had previously been treated for depression and suicidal tendencies and documents seized by prosecutors show he partly hid his medical history from employers.

The BEA representatives told victims' relatives in Barcelona "they would have liked to have talked to the doctors who treated Lubitz to understand why he acted in such a suicidal way.

Nation

Trump rally sparks extraordinary stretch in Republican race

AP
Protesters are escorted out of the building as Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the I-X Center Saturday, March 12, 2016, in Cleveland.



CLEVELAND (AP)—In a Republican presidential primary filled with extraordinary moments, a 24-hour stretch that began Friday night stands above them all.

Opponents of Donald Trump were so committed to keeping him from speaking in Chicago that they aggressively clashed with supporters, forcing the GOP front-runner to abruptly cancel his rally before it even began.

The next morning, two of the candidates still fighting to defeat Trump, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said they were so disgusted by the chaos that they may not support the billionaire businessman if he clinches their party's nomination.

And when Trump appeared at another rally Saturday morning in Ohio, he was suddenly pulled midspeech into a protective ring of U.S. Secret Service agents charged with guarding his life after a man rushed the stage.

"Thank you for the warning," Trump told the crowd after he resumed his speech. "I was ready for 'em, but it's much better if the cops do it, don't we agree?"

Each moment has virtually no precedent in modern presidential politics. Taken together, they exposed anew the remarkable anxiety ripping through a country dealing with profound economic and demographic changes, as well as the anger roiling inside one of America's great political parties.

For those cringing at the discord and Trump's unanticipated political rise, there were no easy answers Saturday.

While not mentioning Trump by name, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement Saturday that political leaders in both parties have a responsibility to ensure that the "discourse we engage in promotes the best of America."

"While we have differences, the exercise of our right to free speech should be just that: speech," Priebus said. "Violence is never the answer. Violence only begets violence."

Republican traditionalists kept whispering in private conversations about long-shot options for stopping Trump, either at a contested convention or by rallying around a potential third-party option. Trump, meanwhile, could put the Republican nomination out of reach to others in Tuesday's slate of five delegate-rich primaries.

For some immigrants, an easier path to professional work

NEW YORK (AP)—There were moments in nursing school when Hina Naveed was tempted to quit, not because she couldn't do the work, but because she wondered whether, as an undocumented immigrant, she'd be allowed to get a license once she graduated.

"OK, I paid all this money. I got this far. I've been talking about how I'm so excited to be a nurse. I've really enjoyed my experiences in clinical. All it comes down to is a piece of paper," said the 25-year-old New Yorker, who was brought to the U.S. by her Pakistani family at age 10.

New York and a handful of other states have been taking steps to remove the uncertainty for immigrants like Naveed, who were granted the legal right to work in the U.S. under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy implemented by the Obama administration in June 2012, but who still face legal and bureaucratic hurdles in earning professional licenses.

New York's Board of Regents, which certifies or licenses more than 50 different types of professionals, including teachers, doctors, nurses, interior designers and architects, voted late last month to adopt regulations that would allow applications from undocumented immigrants who are holders of so-called DACA status. The regulations are up for a final vote and would take effect June 1, if approved.

California passed a law in 2014 that eased licensing restrictions in 40 professions for qualified persons regardless of immigration status. Florida is granting law licenses to DACA holders. Nevada opened up teaching licenses, said Tanya Broder of the National Immigration Law Center.

The federal policy is aimed at those who entered the U.S. before they were 16 years old and have been here continuously since 2007. It is not a legal immigration status, but it puts off deportation and gives eligible residents an access to things like legal employment and, in some places, in-state tuition rates at state colleges.

The right to work, though, isn't the same as a right to teach or practice medicine. In New York, some professional licenses were previously limited by state statute to people who are citizens or have legal immigration status.

Unusually widespread flooding across Louisiana, Mississippi

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—As the Leaf River rose north of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 26-year-old Rebecca Bruce and her fiancé grabbed what they could and left the shed where they live. The water was more than 2 feet deep indoors when they left, she said.

"We lost everything," Bruce said Saturday. "I've got a book bag full of dirty clothes, and I was lucky to get that."

Bruce was among about 20 people in a Red Cross shelter in the Forrest County Community Center on Saturday, as creeks and rivers continued to rise after torrential rains pounded the Deep South. It was one of nine shelters open in Mississippi and 24 in Louisiana.

Downpours—part of a system affecting Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama—submerged roads and cars, washed out bridges and forced residents to flee homes.

At least three people have died in Louisiana alone. Mississippi officials were still looking for two missing fishermen, but had no reports of injuries or deaths, said Lee Smithson, head of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, or MEMA. A Hancock County sheriff's deputy was hospitalized after his patrol car skidded into a ditch Friday night, but is now recovering at home, Chief Deputy Don Bass told the Sun Herald (http://bit.ly/1RGmhdZ).

MEMA reported major damage to 95 homes, minor damage to 277 others, with reports still coming in from 41 of the state's 82 counties.

Smithson said Mississippi is dealing with the most widespread flooding since Hurricane Isaac dumped more than two feet of rain throughout the state.

However, he said, "It has not been quite as rough a day as we thought it was going to be today. ... It looks as if the significant rainstorms for the Mississippi Gulf Coast have not materialized."

1 dead, 2 missing after tugboat crash on Hudson River

NEW YORK (AP)—A tugboat crashed into a barge on the Hudson River north of New York City early Saturday, killing one crew member and leaving two missing and presumed dead.

The 90-foot tugboat named Specialist hit a barge around 5:20 a.m. near where the new Tappan Zee Bridge, which connects two counties north of New York City, is being built, police said. The tugboat sank, spilling about 5,000 gallons of fuel into the water, authorities said.

Several agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, searched for the missing crew members much of the day Saturday. The Coast Guard called off its search at sunset and said it would remain suspended "pending further developments." Other agencies are expected to resume the search Sunday morning.

Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino identified the dead crewman as Paul Amon, 62, of Bayville, New Jersey. Attempts to reach his family were not immediately successful. The missing crewmen have yet to be identified.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he had spoken to the family of one of the missing crew members on Saturday.

"This is a 29-year-old who had his whole life ahead of him. He was supposed to come home but was working a few more days because the company asked him to, and now it's doubtful he'll come home at all," Cuomo said. "That puts everything in perspective. ... Sometimes people go to work and they don't come home."

State Police divers began searching in the water about 12 hours after the crash. Earlier in the day, they used sonar equipment to determine the exact location of the sunken tug and said they needed to assess whether it was safe to send divers into the river to search for the other two victims. Cuomo said officials believed the tugboat was wedged on the river bottom near the mid-span of the bridge, where it crashed.

While not specifically saying the other two had died, Cuomo said: "You have three people who left for work and who aren't going to come home."

Asia

Tears, prayers as Japan marks 5th anniversary of tsunami

RIKUZENTAKATA, Japan (AP)—Japanese gathered in Tokyo and along the country's ravaged northeast coast to observe a moment of silence at 2:46 p.m. Friday, exactly five years after a magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck offshore, triggering a devastating tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people and sent reactors at the Fukushima nuclear plant into meltdown.

Some teared up as they held hands or bowed their heads in prayer as sirens sounded on a chilly afternoon in northern Japan. Japanese Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, all in formal wear, led a ceremony in Tokyo attended by officials and survivors.

"Many of the people affected by the disaster are aging, and I worry that some of them may be suffering alone in places where our eyes and attention don't reach," Akihito said. "It is important that all the people keep their hearts together so that not a single person still in difficulty is overlooked and they can return to normal life as soon as possible."

Five years on, the most heavily damaged communities have yet to be rebuilt. About 180,000 people are still displaced, including those reluctant to return to homes in Fukushima. Much of the disaster-hit Tohoku coast remains empty except for huge mounds of dirt that are raising the ground to minimize the risk of future tsunami before any rebuilding.

AP

A man prays in front of the skeletal remains of the former disaster prevention center in Minamisanriku, Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan Friday, March 11, 2016.

Abe acknowledged that many people are still struggling, but said "reconstruction is steadily making progress, step by step, with housing being rebuilt and jobs regained."

His Cabinet approved on Friday a new 6.5 trillion yen ($57 billion) five-year reconstruction plan through 2020 to speed up construction of public housing for evacuees, and for medical care, infrastructure, tourism promotion and other projects.

At a Buddhist temple in the tsunami-ravaged city of Rikuzentakata, memorial prayers were offered for the more than 1,700 residents who perished, including about 200 whose bodies were never recovered.

"The best thing would be for things to go back as they were, but of course that's not how the world works," said 37-year-old Tadayuki Kumagai, who lost his parents. He considers himself fortunate, because their bodies were found.

"Even if it's impossible to go back to the way things were before the disaster, everyone hopes that living standards will at least come closer to what they were," he said. "I think that's what rebuilding means."

Housing is an acute problem, with some still in temporary quarters, said Zuishu Sugawara, the temple's chief monk. Forty-seven members of the temple are among the missing.

"In form, perhaps reconstruction might happen, but in terms of recovering from the scars of the heart..." he said, pausing. "I think there are some who might never heal."

Early in the day, a handful of people paid respects in the town of Minamisanriku at the skeletal remains of the former disaster prevention center, where 43 workers died as tsunami waves engulfed the three-story building.

Masaki Kamei, a doctor from Tokyo who has been visiting the disaster areas every year, said he senses a change.

Japan tsunami anniversary

By the numbers

March 11, 2011

15,894 People killed by the tsunami and earthquake

2,561 People missing and presumed dead

470,000 People evacuated in March 2011

180,000 Still have not returned home

121,803 Houses destroyed

$225B Reconstruction in the past five years

60% Planned public housing completed

45% Retailers and companies with sales back to pre-disaster levels

70% Fishing ports, farmland repaired for reuse

Source: AP
Graphic: TNS

North Korea warns of pre-emptive strikes against the South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Saturday its military is ready to pre-emptively attack and "liberate" the South if it sees signs that American and South Korean troops involved in the drills were attempting to invade the North.

The declaration from General Staff of the North's Korean People's Army on state media is the latest outburst over the drills that the U.S. and South Korea say are defensive and routine. At the start of the drills on Monday, the North warned of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike of justice" on Washington and Seoul.

The KPA said it will counter the drills by the United States and South Korea it says are aimed at advancing into Pyongyang with plans to "liberate the whole of South Korea including Seoul" and also that it is capable of executing "ultra-precision blitzkrieg" strikes against enemy targets.

In response to North's statement, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff called for North Korea to stop its threats and "rash behavior" and warned that a provocation from the North would result in the destruction of its highest leadership.

A pre-emptive large-scale strike by North Korea against the South is highly unlikely when that would almost certainly bring to an end the authoritarian rule of leader Kim Jong Un given the likely military response of the U.S. and South Korea.

Analysts say the North's bellicose rhetoric is also intended for its domestic audience to display government strength ahead of a major meeting of the ruling party in May. It is expected that Kim will use the Workers' Party convention, the party's first since 1980, to announce important state goals and shake up the country's political elite to further consolidate his power.

North Korea has condemned the annual military drills staged by Seoul and Washington in South Korea, calling them preparations for an invasion. This year, the drills follow the North's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

Suu Kyi loyalist confirmed for Myanmar presidential race

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—A longtime confidant of Aung San Suu Kyi was confirmed Friday in a parliamentary vote as one of the three final candidates to be Myanmar's next president, albeit as a proxy for the Nobel laureate.

Htin Kyaw of the National League for Democracy party was approved by a 274-29 vote in the lower house of parliament to be a finalist for the presidential election next week.

A second NLD candidate. Henry Van Tio, was chosen as the second finalist by the upper house with a 148-13 vote. A third candidate will be put forward by the military bloc, which has a constitutionally mandated 25 percent of reserved seats in parliament.

Legislators from both houses of parliament will hold another round of voting—for which no date has been set—to choose one of them as president, which almost certainly will be the 70-year-old Htin Kyaw (pronounced Tin CH-yaw). The other two will become vice presidents.

"We are satisfied that Htin Kyaw has won to become one of the presidential candidates. We believe that we soon will be able create a better future for our country. We chose him because he is skillful and a very suitable person to be the president," said Myo Zaw Aung, an NLD legislator.

Friday's vote became necessary because, in an unexpected move, the outgoing ruling party put forward its own two candidates Thursday, even though their candidacy was doomed from the start.

The NLD has an overwhelming majority in both chambers following its landslide victory in the Nov. 8 general elections, which paved the way for the country's first democratically elected government since the military took power in 1962.

The new president will take office April 1. But for all practical purposes Htin Kyaw will be a proxy for Suu Kyi, who has said she will be "above" the president and rule from behind the scenes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Demanding pay, Chinese miners protest over governor's claim

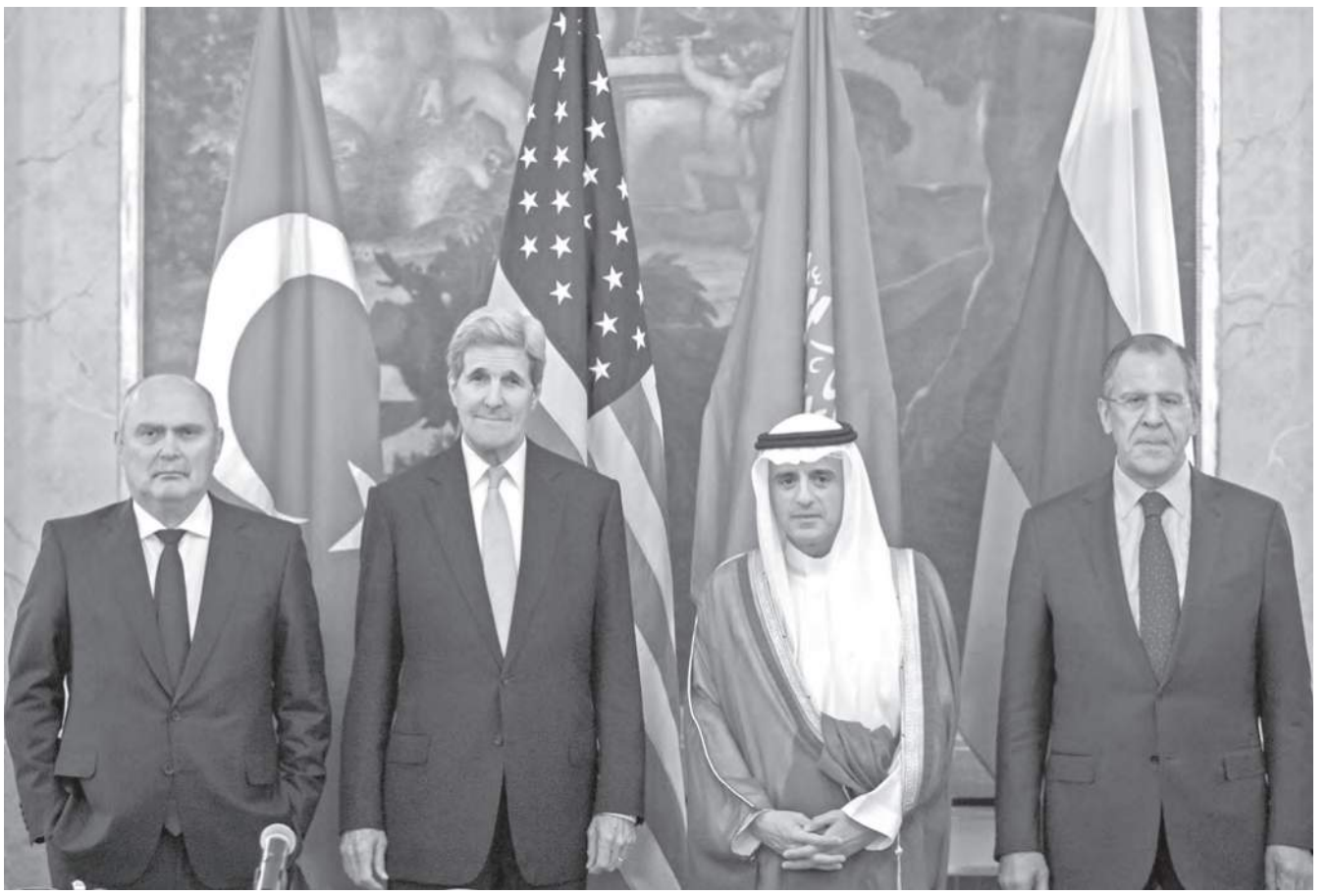
BEIJING (AP)—Thousands of Chinese miners who say they have not been paid for months staged a rare protest in a northeastern city, days after the provincial governor made the apparently false claim that no miner working for the province's largest publicly-owned mining company was owed any back wages. Angry miners from the Longmay Mining Holding Group Co., Ltd. and their family members marched through the city of Shuangyashan on Saturday and gathered in front of the company's local offices. In response, the government of Heilongjiang province issued a statement Saturday night acknowledging that many Longmay employees are owed wages and benefits, backtracking from Governor Lu Hao's assertions earlier this month. The protest and the change in the government's stance underline the sensitivity of the employment issue, as Chinese miners and others in state industries are losing their jobs or seeing their pay drastically cut. China's massive state-owned mining companies are struggling to boost efficiency and reduce their payrolls amid a severe a slump in coal demand brought on by sharply slowing economic growth.

Indonesia starting firefighting early as dry season begins

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's top security minister said Friday that authorities have started efforts to fight forest and peatland fires that often pollute Southeast Asia's air as the dry season begins this month. Luhut Pandjaitan, the coordinating minister for politics, legal and security affairs, said the government wants to avoid mistakes made last year when lack of prevention resulted in fires burning out of control. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo had to ask help from other countries to bring the blazes under control. Forest fires have been an annual problem in Indonesia since the mid-1990s, causing a toxic haze that often drifts into neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Last year's fires, which covered 2.1 million hectares (8,100 square miles), were considered one of the country's worst environmental disasters since 1997, when blazes spread across nearly 10 million hectares.

World

5 years after the spark, Syria war at a critical juncture



AP
In this file photo taken on Friday, Oct. 23, 2015, From left, Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Feridun Sinirlioglu, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Arabia Adel al-Jubeir and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pose for a photo, during a meeting in Vienna.

BEIRUT (AP)—After five years of bloodshed—after a quarter of a million deaths, and the flight of millions of refugees—Syria has arrived at a critical juncture: A diplomatic framework is in place to end the carnage, a two-week-old partial cease-fire is holding, and peace talks are set to resume in coming days.

"The indicators from a distance are all good," said Bassam Barabandi, a Washington-based former Syrian diplomat who now serves as a political adviser to the Syrian opposition. But it's an extremely fragile moment, and the way is still long, he added.

Few think fighting will end altogether, and the efforts could collapse again at any point. Bitter divisions over the future of President Bashar Assad threaten to scuttle any serious negotiations for a political transition in the immediate future. Talk is on the rise that a partition is the best case scenario.

Still, there are numerous indications that the war has reached a point when guns may start giving way to politics.

"We are finishing phase one and moving on to phase two," Barabandi said.

At the heart of the current diplomacy: an internationally shared desire to put an end to a war that has unleashed Islamic extremists across the globe, destabilized neighboring countries and inundated Europe with refugees.

"International opinion is drifting away from the opposition and the idea of political change in Syria," said Aron Lund, nonresident associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and editor of Syria in Crisis. "Much of the world just wants stability, an end to terror sanctuaries, a stemming of refugee flows. They don't want to see Syria on the front page of their morning newspapers anymore."

Five years have passed since the uprising began, first with a small protest in downtown Damascus on March 14, 2011, followed a few days later by larger protests in the southern city of Daraa in response to the arrest and torture of high school students who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a school wall.

Coming after a string of so-called Arab Spring uprisings that toppled dictators in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, the protests triggered panic in the echelons of the Syrian power structure. Security forces responded with brute force. Within a few months, the confrontations morphed into an armed insurgency and the conflict slid into one of the most savage civil wars in recent history.

As the U.S., Iran, Hezbollah, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and ultimately Russia poured in weapons and cash to back up opposing sides of the war, the fighting became more brutal. Massacres were committed on a massive scale, and entire blocks in major cities were reduced to rubble.

Through it all, Assad has been unflinching, maintaining that he is fighting terrorism. The rise of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, has eclipsed the original core of nationalist activists seeking an end to dictatorship—so completely that Assad claims that it's a myth that the uprising began with the arrest of students in Daraa and subsequent protests.

SIDEBAR A look at how the Syrian conflict has changed the world

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian conflict has had outsized impact on global politics. Five ways the world has changed:

RISE OF ISLAMIC STATE

It was in the vacuum of the deteriorating Syria conflict that a little-known and terrifically violent branch of al-Qaeda grew into the foremost terror group on the planet.

In 2014, the Islamic State group completed its takeover of the eastern Syria city of Raqqa and went on to conquer Iraq's Mosul. It eventually took over an area straddling the countries' border the size of Britain—absorbing weapons, wealth, and personnel along the way. The expansion went largely unchecked by the Syrian government, busy fighting opponents in its more populated regions closer to the Mediterranean coast.

IS has sparked deep anxieties in the region and around the world by slaughtering minorities, institutionalizing sex slavery, vanquishing state armies, and executing opponents in gruesome spectacles of violence. It destroyed heritage sites, such as temples in the ancient city of Palmyra, and fueled the global antiquities trade.

The group has waged terror attacks from France to Yemen and has established a beachhead in northern Libya that could outlast its so-called "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq. Perhaps most confounding, thousands of young men and women from Europe—not all of Muslim origin—have flocked to join it.

RESURGENT RUSSIA

"There is one man on this planet who can end the civil war in Syria by making a phone call, and that's Mr. Putin," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said recently.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has established a renewed Middle East foothold after watching for years as the United States called shots in the region. Last September, after showering arms, advisers, and economic assistance on President Bashar Assad to insufficient effect, Putin sent his air force to pound the Syrian government's opponents. The recent ebb in violence is largely because Russia dictated it. Russia's designs for Syria are still veiled, but whoever leads Syria next will largely owe their chair to Putin.

Before Syria, there was Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014, precursors to the current intervention, where Putin was unafraid to show the lengths he would go to protect perceived Russian interests. Now, Russia is positioned as a major broker in the region with significant oil and gas wealth. Expect political movements of all stripes to ask how Russia can serve their interests.

EUROPE DESTABILIZED

When Europe fashioned its open border agreements late last century, it did not anticipate over a million migrants—mostly refugees from Syria—in one year alone, as happened in 2015. Thousands have died trying to cross by sea, posing a moral challenge for the continent. The stream, which continues unabated, has brought on both generosity and xenophobia, ultimately shaking the open-border arrangement to the core.

Europeans are now erecting barriers along the migrants' Balkan route from Greece to Germany, after initially allowing entry to hundreds of thousands. Multitudes fester in squalid conditions in southeastern Europe. Many face legal limbo around the continent, waiting for asylum applications to be processed or residing without permits.

The Islamic State attack on Paris in November, though largely perpetrated by French and Belgian nationals, sparked security recriminations across Europe and boosted nationalist politicians. Echoes could be heard as far away as the United States, where Republican front-runner Donald Trump shocked many by proposing a ban on Muslims entering the country.

Europe is now exploring a deal to send all migrants arriving in Greece back to Turkey, in exchange for admitting pre-selected refugees from Syria. On top of its currency crisis, the mass migration has strained Europe's unity to the limit.

NEIGHBORS SUBVERTED

Europe's migrant crisis is dwarfed by the wave of displacement that has washed into Syria's neighbors. Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan alone host around 4.4 million refugees from Syria; in Lebanon, they make up more than one-fifth of the population.

Syrian refugees have brought capital and labor and produced mixed economic outcomes in their host societies, depending on what figures are consulted.

The Syria conflict has also ensnared militias and state actors across the region, destabilizing fragile neighbors like Lebanon and reawakening ethnic tensions in Turkey, where the Syria conflict has provoked concerns of a civil war with the Kurds.

IRAN ASCENDANT

The Syria conflict has rebalanced regional axes of power. Predominantly Shiite Iran's sphere of influence now extends from Beirut to Tehran, with dependent governments in Baghdad and Damascus. The commander of the elite Quds Force of the vaunted Revolutionary Guards, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, has visited Russia and is often seen directing deployments in Syria and Iraq. Iran has militias in both countries said to operate outside sovereign command structures.

In Lebanon, Iran is powerfully represented by Hezbollah, the party-militia hybrid that expelled Israel from the south of the country in 2000. It has sent thousands of fighters to prop up Assad in Syria. Israel glumly watches its nemesis training with modern artillery alongside Russian and Iranian contingents, and fortifying its position along the Jewish state's northern border. Hezbollah steadily marginalizes Saudi-backed opponents in Lebanon's government.

Saudi Arabia, the regional Sunni powerhouse, is struggling to maintain support for the mainly Sunni rebels it backs in Syria while also fighting Iran-supported Shiite rebels in Yemen.

Focus

Girls keep out: Female video gamers face vile abuse, threats

NEW YORK (AP)—Nico Deyo, a 33-year-old e-commerce specialist from Milwaukee, used to enjoy mixing it up with players from around the world in the popular online fantasy game "World of Warcraft." Then a stalker began harassing her on the game's forums, impersonating her in the game and, later, sending her barrages of Twitter messages, some threatening her with graphic rape and murder.

While the stalker didn't drive her from the game, the experience helped sour her on multiplayer gaming. "There's a lot of things about the community that are very hostile," she says of Warcraft. Deyo largely gave up the game almost two years ago and now mostly spends her time on playing other games by herself.

Deyo is far from alone. In the male-dominated world of multiplayer online games like "Grand Theft Auto," ''Halo," and "Call of Duty," many women say they've had to take drastic steps to escape harassment, stalking and violent threats from male players. Some quit particular games. Others change their screen names or make sure they play only with friends.

Online harassment of women, often involving threats of horrific violence, has become a big issue—and video games are a frequent flashpoint. Two years ago, the online "Gamergate" movement, ostensibly a protest over the ethics of game journalists, also fueled Twitter attacks on female critics replete with gutter-level abuse and assault threats. Some targets left their homes or canceled speaking engagements, fearing for their safety.

AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, photo, longtime video game developer Becky Heineman poses for a photo at her workspace in Seattle.

On Saturday, the South by Southwest Interactive festival plans a daylong summit on online harassment ; one panel will address problems in "gaming and geek culture ." That summit, however, almost never happened; last October, the festival canceled two gaming-issue panels after receiving "numerous threats of on-site violence ." Organizers reversed themselves a few days later after BuzzFeed and Vox Media threatened to boycott the festival entirely.

Online gaming companies, however, have been slower to act. Major console makers Microsoft and Sony and game developers like Blizzard Entertainment have "terms of service" that explicitly ban stalking and other harassing behavior. The companies have the right to ban reported bad actors from their public forums. Players say that rarely happens—and when it does, as in Deyo's case, their harassers often follow them onto Twitter and other social channels.

Becky Heineman, the 52-year-old founder of the Olde Skuul game studio in Seattle, was an aficionado of shoot-em-ups like "Halo" and "Call of Duty." But constant catcalls from other players and questions about her bra size or "whether I do it on top or bottom, or other derogatory things," she says, wore her down.

Reporting her harassers never seemed to make a difference, she says. She limited her play to friends for a while, but now mostly focuses on simple single-player games like "Cookie Clicker" on her phone and computer.

Contrary to popular stereotypes, women are avid video gamers; one recent survey showed that about half of all women play video games, about the same as men. But men are far more likely to identify themselves as "gamers," and experts say that "hardcore" shooting and action games remain mostly male.

It's only recently that "women players have been recognized as valid gamers that are interesting for companies," said Yasmin Kafai, a University of Pennsylvania professor who focuses on gender and gaming.

Microsoft says recent changes to its Xbox Live service make it more likely that players with bad reputations will end up playing each other. It adds that its enforcement team monitors complaints at all times and that all reports are investigated. Sony, Blizzard and the Entertainment Software Association, a trade group, did not respond to requests for comment.

Those moves don't impress some women in the industry.

"While they have very good statements about harassment and, you know, responsibility to the community and all that kind of stuff, the enforcement side of it is pretty lax," says Kate Edwards, executive director of the International Game Developers Association. "Players basically have to adopt their own strategies to deal with it."

Games and online game networks, for instance, let players "mute" messages from opponents and turn off voice chat, where trash talk can easily shade over into harassment. Xbox Live also labels players who get lots of complaints with a red marker so that other players can avoid them.

But constantly muting or reporting other players interrupts what's supposed to be a fun pastime. And it doesn't change harassing behavior.

"If I just block somebody, is that stopping them from doing the abuse?" says Kishonna Gray, an Eastern Kentucky University professor who wrote a book about racist and sexist interactions within Xbox. "They can go to the next person and do the same thing."

How to stop harassment in video games

NEW YORK (AP)—Many women say popular video games such as "World of Warcraft" and "Halo" are rife with harassment, stalking and sexism that game companies don't police effectively. But there are some steps the game industry, social media and law enforcement could take to combat harassment.

A UNIFIED STANDARD FOR ENFORCEMENT

Video game companies create their own rules for acceptable behavior, and some players complained that they didn't know what resulted from their reports of bad behavior.

"One of the things that would be really cool to see is if all companies adopted similar standards for what constitutes harassment and behavior so they work more in tandem," says Kate Edwards, executive director of the International Game Developers Association.

Players can mute, block or report users who bother them. But some say that's not enough: Avoiding a problem doesn't solve it or change how people act with others.

Several experts credit Riot Games, the company behind popular online game "League of Legends," for building a system that aims to improve the culture of the game and change player behavior. If a player is punished, the company's system tells them why they were reported and shows them the specific comments that other players didn't like.

HIRING AND DIVERSITY

Video game developers remain overwhelmingly male, and companies could make a conscious effort to diversify their workforces, Edwards says. Doing so might result in games with broader appeal.

The industry is paying attention to criticism. At the June 2015 Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3, video game conference, companies featured more games with prominent women characters. There were also more women attending and representing the industry than there had been in previous years.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Harassment isn't limited to game platforms. It spills out onto Twitter and other social media. After criticism, some sites have taken steps to try to curb abuse.

Twitter has tried to make it easier to report threats and abuse, adding staff and trying to streamline reporting and blocking. In February, the company formed a "Trust & Safety Council" with outside groups to help develop tools and policies to fight abuse while still allowing people to speak freely.

Last year, the free-wheeling online discussion board Reddit adopted new guidelines that prohibit publishing people's private information (such as stolen pictures or home addresses), harassment, abuse and comments that incite violence.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights group, says that if companies aren't willing to build in filtering functions for harassing messages, they should let outside developers do so.

AP

In this June 15, 2015 file photo, Phil Spencer, head of Microsoft's Xbox division and Microsoft Studios, speaks at the Xbox E3 2015 briefing ahead of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) at the University of Southern California's Galen Center in Los Angeles.

PROSECUTION

Federal law and many states prohibit stalking and threatening someone online. Law enforcement can pursue people who make threats by collecting user information from Twitter and other services. But such cases can be challenging.

It has to be a "true threat," says Wesley Hsu, an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. "There is a difference, under the law, between 'I hope someone comes and kills you' and 'I'm coming to kill you.'"

It can also be difficult to track people who make online threats, Hsu says, given the prevalence of tools for staying anonymous on the Internet.

Health & Fitness

At 73, Boyd Sawyer always makes time to work out

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Boyd Sawyer's father died at age 51 of a massive heart attack. His mother died from asthma complications at age 65. So instead of sitting back and letting "life take its natural course," Sawyer, 73, decided to be pre-emptive.

"I am convinced after all these years that we can go a long way in affecting our genetic makeup in positive ways by taking care of ourselves," says Sawyer, who lives in Frisco, Texas. "Exercise was one of the ways I chose to take charge of my life."

■ Typical week of workouts: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, I go to the fitness center, where I conclude each session with at least 30 minutes of stretching. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, I work on our ranch, feeding cattle, making repairs and training quarter horses.

■ If I had just 20 minutes to work out, I would: Maybe do 10 minutes of cardio, five minutes of abs, and five minutes of weights. Better yet, if that's all the time you have, a good brisk walk may be the best way to utilize 20 minutes.

■ What gets in the way of my workout? A cold, the flu, strained muscles or a scheduling conflict. I try hard not to let anything interfere with my workouts. They are very, very important to me.

■ Proudest fitness moment: I am proud every time I complete my exercise program for the day and my body feels strong and taut. One of the good moments is when I step out on the beach, I like the way I look!

■ Favorite healthy food: I love apples and eat them frequently. I also love almonds and walnuts.

■ Favorite indulgence: That would have to be a big old juicy hamburger.

MCT

Boyd Sawyer pauses while sharing an apple with a horse while working on his ranch in Collinsville, Texas, on Thursday Feb. 18, 2016. Sawyer, who has been ranching on this land since 1983, visits the gym three times a week for at least two and a half hours per trip in addition to his ranch work.

■ Fitness goals: The first is to continue to stay active for as long as possible, so at age 73, I maintain a very rigorous program. Second is to increase in reasonable segments a higher level of weight training. Third, to enjoy life in and out of the fitness center. Believe it or not, working out can be very enjoyable. It makes you feel alive!

■ What I'd tell someone who wants to follow my routine: You may learn from my routine and from others, but find your own thing that you enjoy doing and just go do it.

■ What my workout says about me: One, I am committed; two, very disciplined. Three, I believe good things happen to people who work hard and give life their best shot.

Studies: Beyond scales, fitness and body fat key for health

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The bathroom scale may show a good number but how much of that weight is fat, not muscle? New studies are adding to the evidence that the scale doesn't always tell the whole story when it comes to weight-related health risks.

Keeping body fat low is more important for healthy aging than a low overall weight, researchers reported Monday in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine. A separate study found young people who aren't physically fit are at greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life even if their weight is healthy.

Here are some things to know:

ISN'T BMI IMPORTANT?

Yes. Body mass index, or BMI, is a measure of a person's weight compared to their height. For many people, that's plenty of evidence to tell if they're overweight or obese and thus at increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and premature death. Generally, a BMI of 25 and above indicates overweight, while 30 and above indicates obesity. Someone who is 5 feet, 9 inches would hit that obesity threshold at 203 pounds.

BUT IT'S NOT A PERFECT MEASURE

Some people have a high BMI because they're more muscular. More common are people who harbor too little muscle and too much body fat even if their BMI is in the normal range.

Body composition shifts as we age, with the proportion of muscle decreasing and the proportion of body fat increasing. That slows metabolism, making it easier to put on pounds in middle age even if people haven't changed how they eat or how much they exercise.

FAT FINDINGS

Dr. William Leslie of the University of Manitoba wondered if poorly measured body fat might help explain the controversial "obesity paradox," where some studies have suggested that being moderately overweight later in life might be good for survival. He tracked 50,000 middle-aged and older Canadians, mostly women, who'd undergone screening for bone-thinning osteoporosis. Those screening X-rays—known as DXA for dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry—measure bone and also allow an estimation of fat.

A higher percent of body fat, independent of the person's BMI, was linked to reduced survival, Leslie reported. Risk began rising when body fat was in the range of 36 percent to 38 percent. Interestingly, being underweight also was linked to reduced survival, possibly reflecting age-related frailty.

"It's not just the amount of body you've got, but what you're actually made of," Leslie concludes.

AND FITNESS COUNTS

A high BMI is one of the biggest risk factors for Type 2 diabetes. But a second study reported in Annals Monday suggests people can still be at risk if they're skinny but not physically fit.

Researchers in Sweden and New York checked records of about 1.5 million Swedish men who at age 18 received medical exams for mandatory military service, and tracked how many developed diabetes many years later.

Low muscle strength and low aerobic fitness each were associated with an increased diabetes risk - regardless of whether the men were normal weight or overweight. Scoring low on both added to the risk.

WHAT DO THE FINDINGS MEAN?

For diabetes, "normal-weight persons may not receive appropriate lifestyle counseling if they are sedentary or unfit because of their lower perceived risk," wrote obesity specialist Peter Katzmarzyk of Louisiana's Pennington Biomedical Research Center, who wasn't involved in the study.

That study also suggests fitness in adolescence can have long-lasting impact.

And Leslie said doctors should consider patients' body composition, not just weight, in assessing their health.

HOW TO TELL

Most people won't benefit from a DXA scan for fat, stressed Dympna Gallagher, who directs the human body composition laboratory at Columbia University Medical Center and thinks those tests are more for research than real life.

Other methods for determining body composition range from measuring skinfold thickness to "bioimpedance" scales that use a tiny electrical current, but all have varying degrees of error, Gallagher said. Plus, normal body fat varies with age and there's no agreement on the best cutoffs for health, she said.

Her recommendation: Check your waistline, even if your BMI is normal. Abdominal fat, an apple-shaped figure, is riskier than fat that settles on the hips. The government says men are at increased risk of health problems if their waist circumference is larger than 40 inches, and 35 inches for women.

Moses "Mo" D. Williams
April 30, 1940 – March 04, 2016

Join us to celebrate and remember Moses' life
Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 10:00 to 12 noon
Borja Funeral Home – San Jose, Saipan

On March 21, 2016 the remains of our beloved Moses will be flown to Palau, where he will be laid to rest at his home island of Peleliu.

Sulang, Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, & Salamat Po

Emi, Loly, Jeremy, Andy, Sadaria W. Fritz & Family

Life & Style

Length of tennis ban is key in Sharapova's brand value

LONDON (AP)—So far, Maria Sharapova's attempts to limit the damage from her doping revelation have been well-judged, branding and crisis managers say. But whether she can hold onto her financial and sporting clout will ultimately depend on the length of any ban she is handed.

The five-time Grand Slam champion has apparently been upfront and contrite in the scandal that erupted Monday, when she revealed she had failed a drug test for meldonium, which had just been banned by authorities because it aids oxygen uptake and endurance. She admitted taking the drug for ten years for medical reasons. No dishonesty was involved, Sharapova says, she had merely neglected to click on an updated list of banned drugs.

The scandal threatens to undo years of meticulous brand building that have seen Sharapova become one of the most commercially successful female athletes ever. Major sponsors Nike, Tag Heuer and Porsche have suspended their deals with the 28-year-old Russian.

One, though, hasn't: racket manufacturer Head, which publicly backed her and even extended her contract. The Austria-based company's CEO Johan Eliasch even questioned WADA's decision to add meldonium to its banned substances list and said the anti-doping body should have imposed a "dosage limitation" instead.

"Head clearly buys her claim that this was just an honest mistake," said Michael Gordon, CEO of corporate and crisis communications firm Group Gordon. "Are they trying to read the tea leaves in terms of how severe her punishment will be? Sure. But as long as no shocking revelations emerge that challenge the truth of her statements thus far, all signs point to a lenient punishment."

In this Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016, file photo, Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates after defeating Belinda Bencic of Switzerland in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia. AP

Numerous tennis players, including two-time Grand Slam champion and fellow Head racket-user Andy Murray, say she has to accept her punishment. Murray has also described Head's response as a "strange stance."

Sharapova could potentially face a four-year ban, according to former World Anti-Doping Agency president Dick Pound, which would to all intents and purposes spell the end of her career at the top of the women's game—and seriously damage the worth of her hard-won brand. Pound has said Sharapova was guilty of "willful negligence" for using meldonium.

A lenient punishment from the International Tennis Federation, say a year or less, would give some validation to Sharapova's claim that her mistake, though big, was honest. It would last as long as some injuries, which is something Sharapova has struggled with through her career. A short ban would potentially allow brands to ride out the storm and forgive her. And if it's a short ban, then Sharapova, who has won all four Grand Slam titles, won't need to do much to rebuild her brand.

"Sharapova's commercial worth would hinge significantly on the length of a ban should there be one," said Jon Stainer, managing director of the U.K. and Ireland operations of sports and entertainment sponsorship consultants Repucom.

"At 28, she still has many years of playing at the top of the game—Serena Williams for example is six years Sharapova's senior—but the longer it would take to return to the game, the less time she would have to rebuild that image she's done so well to build," he added.

Sharapova, according to Repucom research, is the most marketable female athlete in the world, ranking above the likes of her tennis peer Serena Williams and skier Lindsey Vonn. Of the 76 percent of people that know of her globally, 74 percent say they like the tennis ace and 75 percent say they find her aspirational, Repucom's Stainer said.

Those positive numbers tell the story of Sharapova's value to sponsors and why no sponsor has yet ditched her for good. Sharapova is one of the top female players of her generation, with 35 career singles titles and over $36 million in career earnings. Those earnings, however, are thought to be dwarfed by what she gets from her endorsements and business ventures, like her candy brand Sugarpova.

Sportswear giant Nike, Swiss watch brand Tag Heuer and German luxury car company Porsche have distanced themselves from Sharapova. But, crucially, they all left the door ajar for a return. Nike, for one, said, it had "decided to suspend our relationship with Maria while the investigation continues" but that it "will continue to monitor the situation."

The stakes for Head, though, are different to those of Nike, which has many more brand ambassadors and across a wider array of sports. "Head is proud to stand behind Maria, now and into the future and we intend to extend her contract," the company said in a statement Thursday. "We look forward to working with her and to announcing new sponsorships in the weeks and months ahead."

Keith Emerson of Emerson, Lake and Palmer dies at 71

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keith Emerson, founder and keyboardist of the progressive-rock band Emerson, Lake and Palmer, has died. He was 71.

Emerson's longtime partner, Mari Kawaguchi, called police to his condominium in Santa Monica, California, at about 1:30 a.m. on Friday.

Emerson had an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, and authorities are investigating his death as a possible suicide. Kawaguchi told police that Emerson could have died anywhere between Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Emerson, drummer Carl Palmer and vocalist/guitarist Greg Lake were giants of progressive rock in the 1970s, recording six platinum-selling albums. They and other hit groups such as Pink Floyd, the Moody Blues and Genesis stepped away from rock's emphasis on short songs with dance beats, instead creating albums with ornate pieces full of complicated rhythms, intricate chords and time signature changes. The orchestrations drew on classical and jazz styles and sometimes wedded traditional rock instruments with full orchestras.

Emerson, Lake and Palmer's 1973 album "Brain Salad Surgery" included a nearly 30-minute composition called "Karn Evil 9" that featured a Moog synthesizer and the eerie, carnival-like lyric: "Welcome back my friends, to the show that never ends."

In this Aug. 12, 1999 file photo, musician Keith Emerson plays the new Van Koevering Interactive Piano, designed by electronic engineer Bob Moog, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

A musical prodigy, Emerson was born in Todmorden, Yorkshire in England. By his late teens, he was playing in blues and jazz clubs in London. He helped form one of the first progressive rock groups, the Nice, before hooking up with Lake and Palmer in 1970 and debuting with them at the Isle of Wight Festival, shows that also featured Jimi Hendrix and the Who.

Although it filled stadiums, ELP also was ridiculed as the embodiment of the pomposity and self-indulgence that rock supposedly stood against. When the punk movement took off in the mid-'70s, the band was a special target, openly loathed by the Sex Pistols' Johnny Rotten among others.

Years later, Rotten (then calling himself John Lydon) and Emerson became friends, Lydon told News of the World in 2007.

"He's a great bloke," Lydon said. "I've told Keith in no uncertain terms that what put me off his band were those 20-minute organ solos and that film of their convoy of trucks crossing America."

ELP broke up in 1979, reunited in 1991, later disbanded again and reunited one last time for a 2010 tour.

Throughout, Emerson continued to compose and perform, sometimes solo and other times with various musicians, including Lake.

Palmer said in a statement that Emerson "was a pioneer and an innovator whose musical genius touched all of us in the worlds of rock, classical and jazz."

Leader of Eagles of Death Metal apologizes for comments

Eagles of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes has apologized for suggesting that security guards at a Paris concert venue were complicit in the assault by Islamic militants there in November that left 89 people dead.

Hughes told the Fox Business Network last week that six guards at the Bataclan venue never came to work the night of the attack, and "it seems rather obvious that they had a reason not to show up."

On Friday, Hughes apologized: "I humbly beg forgiveness from the people of France, the staff and security of the Bataclan, my fans, family, friends and anyone else hurt or offended by the absurd accusations I made."

"My suggestions that anyone affiliated with the Bataclan played a role in the events of November 13 are unfounded and baseless—and I take full responsibility for them," he said in a statement.

The band's performance at the Bataclan concert hall was turned into a bloodbath when suicide bombers stormed in as part of near-simultaneous attacks on cafes and a stadium around Paris.

Hughes blamed the lingering effect of the attack for his accusations that the security team may have been in on the attack.

"I've been dealing with non-stop nightmares and struggling through therapy to make sense of this tragedy and insanity. I haven't been myself since Nov. 13," he wrote. "I realize there's no excuse for my words, but for what it's worth: I am sincerely sorry for having hurt, disrespected or accused anyone." ***(AP)***

NFL player Russell Wilson, singer Ciara are engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL player Russell Wilson and singer Ciara are engaged.

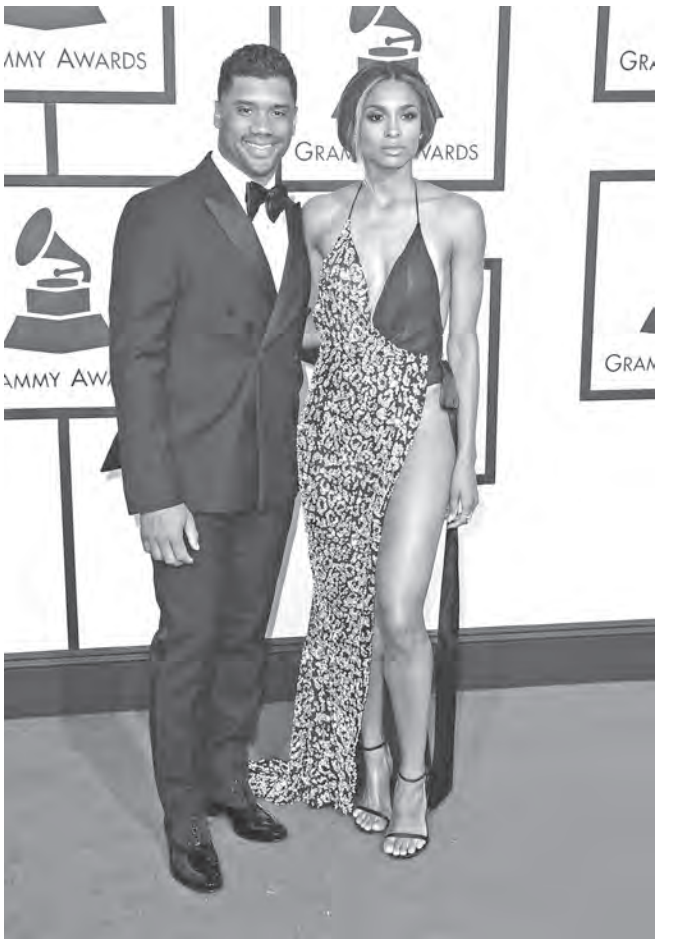
The Seattle Seahawks quarterback posted a video on his Facebook page Friday showing himself next to Ciara, who was wearing a bright ring.

"She said yes. Yeah! Making this thing happen. My baby," Wilson said. Ciara added: "I'm so excited. God is so good."

A representative for Ciara confirmed the engagement. The 30-year-old singer was previously engaged to rapper-singer-producer Future. They have a son, Future Zahir Wilburn, who turns 2 in May.

Ciara posted a photo on Twitter of Wilson on bended-knee with the caption: "I feel complete." She also wrote, "You Are Heaven Sent. I'm Looking Forward To Spending Forever With You."

Her hits include "Goodies," ''1, 2 Step" and the Grammy-winning "Lose Control," with Missy Elliott.



AP

In this Feb. 15, 2016 file photo, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, left, and singer Ciara arrive at the 58th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. A

Steve Martin is guest curator at Boston art exhibition

BOSTON (AP)—Steve Martin has some happy eyes to go with those happy feet.

The actor and comedian is guest curator of an exhibition at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts devoted to Canadian modernist Lawren Harris.

Martin will be on hand Friday for a preview of the exhibition, and he'll discuss Harris' work at Saturday's public opening of the show. He is a passionate arts patron and collector.

Thirty Harris paintings will be on display, including landscapes of the northern shores of Lake Superior, the icy waters of the eastern Arctic and snow-capped Rocky Mountain peaks.

Martin says Harris deserves international acclaim for reaching "another level of the metaphysics of landscape." Harris died in 1970.

"The Idea of North: The Paintings of Lawren Harris" runs through June 12.

AP

Actor and comedian Steve Martin, who is guest curator of an exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts devoted to Canadian modernist Lawren Harris, gestures while discussing Harris's work during a gathering at the museum in Boston, Friday, March 11, 2016.

50 Cent: Secret Service asking about 'prop' money

AP

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson arrives at court for a federal bankruptcy hearing, Wednesday, March 9, 2016, in Hartford, Conn.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—He's already explained himself to a bankruptcy court judge, but 50 Cent says the Secret Service is now asking about the wads of "prop" money he used in social media posts.

The rapper, whose name is Curtis Jackson III, wrote in an Instagram post Thursday night that the Secret Service has asked if the fake money was counterfeited. Making his point with a couple expletives, 50 Cent says he doesn't know.

Secret Service officials and 50 Cent's lawyers and representatives didn't return messages seeking comment Friday.

50 Cent was ordered to appear in bankruptcy court in Hartford on Wednesday, after the judge and U.S. trustee's office raised questions about his finances, including what looked like cash bundles in his Instagram photos. The pictures included ones of him sitting next to piles of cash arranged to spell "broke," him in a bed with wads of cash and cash stacks in a refrigerator.

SXSW co-founder Louis Meyers dies on day 2016 festival opens

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A colleague of SXSW co-founder Louis Meyers says the musician has died on the day the major entertainment festival opened for the 30th year. He was 60.

Folk Alliance International Director Aengus Finnan said Meyers died Friday in Austin. The cause of death wasn't immediately known.

Finnan replaced Meyers as head of the Kansas City-based folk music association in 2014. He called Meyers a "musician's musician" and a leader in the industry.

Meyers helped start SXSW in 1987 with the hopes of bringing more exposure to Austin musicians. He left the festival in mid-1990s before SXSW grew into one of the biggest annual music events in the world. President Barack Obama spoke at the festival Friday, becoming the first sitting president to do so.

Couple torn apart by lies must try to face the truth

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 14 years. My wife is a liar and lies about small things. I realized it about 10 years ago and have tried to reason with her. We have two daughters, and the older one is like her mom and also has a habit of lying.

Over the last few years I have started calling my wife on it whenever she lies to me. For the last eight months, we have not talked and we sleep in different rooms. She has never made an effort to fix our relationship. I want a divorce, but for the kids' sake I am not talking about it or forcing the issue.

I'm very depressed and don't know what to do. I have started drinking a lot late at night when everybody in the house is asleep. Please advise.

HAD IT IN GEORGIA

DEAR HAD IT: It's time to take a step back and review what's happened in your marriage in the sober light of day. Neither you nor your wife is communicating on a meaningful level. Drowning your sorrows in alcohol won't fix what's wrong in your relationship with a compulsive liar -- and neither will tolerating the status quo.

You say you want a divorce, but haven't mentioned it for your children's sake; however, the silent anger and hostility in your home isn't a healthy environment for them. Do you really want them to grow up thinking this is normal?

If you or your wife is concerned about how your behavior is affecting your daughters, start talking with a licensed marriage counselor to see if your marriage can be revived. If it can't be, then it might be healthier to consult an attorney and make the split as amicable as possible for everyone's emotional and financial sake.

DEAR ABBY: When my boyfriend, "Alec," proposed, I happily accepted. But a few months later he came up with the idea to bring his 9-year-old brother, "Shane," to live with him, so Alec can look after him. Alec thinks the boy will get a better education and improve his behavior if he lives in the city.

Currently, Shane lives with their mom, and she agreed to send her son to live here. The problem is, we plan to get married in two years, and I do not see myself living with an adolescent boy. I want to start out fresh only with Alec. His family can visit, but the prospect of his brother living with us does not appeal to me, especially because he has a mom who can look after him. I am unsure now whether to proceed with the wedding, knowing what this will mean.

PLANS DERAILED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR PLANS DERAILED: Does your fiance intend to bring Shane to stay immediately? At the beginning of the next school year? Is Shane having social problems at his present school? Academic difficulties? Has he become difficult for their mother to control? Who will be expected to supervise the boy when he is not in school?

You and Alec need to have a lot more conversation about what the realities of this situation will be once the boy arrives. If Alec plans to have responsibility for his brother fall on you, you need to be honest and let him know you are neither willing nor able to do that, so he can make other arrangements.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

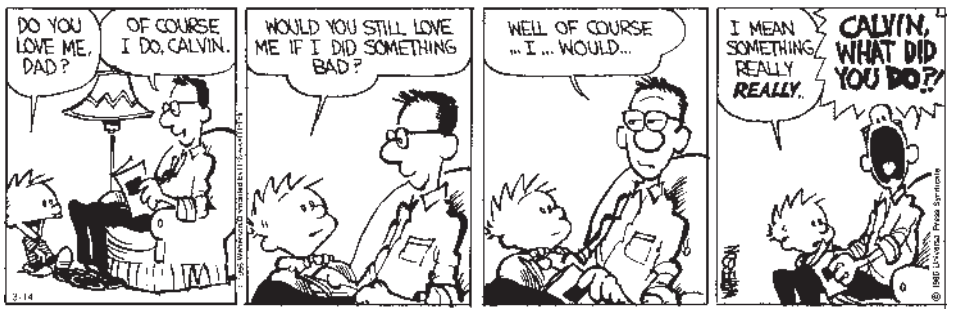
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DO YOU LOVE ME, DAD?
OF COURSE I DO, CALVIN.
WOULD YOU STILL LOVE ME IF I DID SOMETHING BAD?
WELL OF COURSE ... I ... WOULD...
I MEAN SOMETHING REALLY REALLY.
CALVIN, WHAT DID YOU DO?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

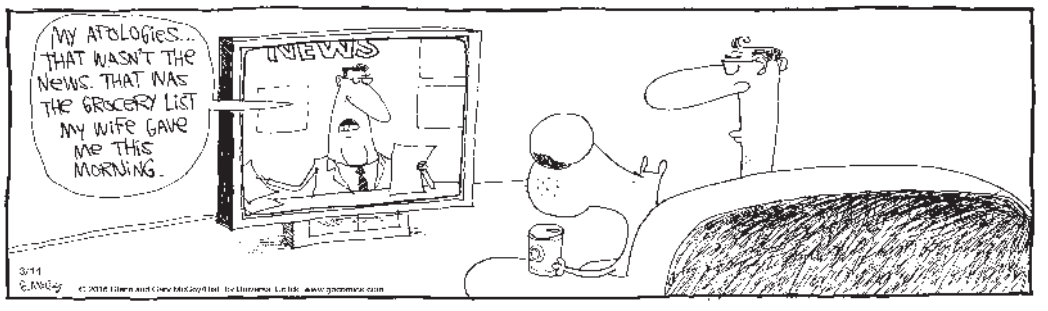
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I THINK OUR HOUSE IS HAUNTED.
OH, REALLY?
YEAH. STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING.
LOUD NOISES. OPEN CABINETS. WEIRD SMELLS.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S YOUR BROTHER.
WEIRDER THAN CLAYTON SMELLS!
GASP!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pump up the volume
4 Biblical realm
9 Expert
12 Feathery wrap
13 Loses color
14 Sushi fish
15 Sociable and lively
17 Hitter's stat
18 Lyricist Gershwin
19 Seoul man
21 Chinese boat
24 Whirled
25 Clean air org.
26 Attorney's field
28 Boredom
31 Melodies
33 That lady
35 Surround
36 View anew
38 Carry- — (travel bags)
40 Big fuss
41 Radius neighbor
43 Phonograph needle
45 Kathmandu native
47 Scot's refusal
48 Paris pal
49 Unbiased
54 "Today" rival, briefly
55 Boutique
56 Wish undone
57 Bando of baseball
58 Pledge drive gifts
59 Silly Putty container

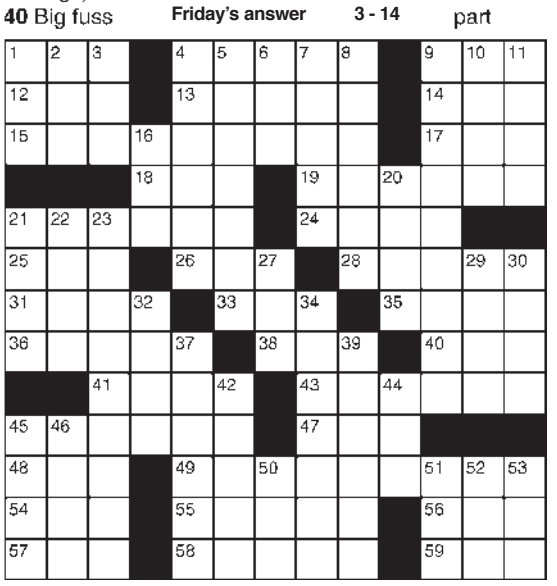
DOWN

1 "Scandal" network
2 Cattle call?
3 Zero-star review
4 Helix shape
5 Some cigars
6 Quarterback Manning
7 Birds' bills
8 On an angle
9 Peony or aster, e.g.
10 Ms. McEntire
11 Lena of "Chocolat"
16 Red-carpet type
20 Ladder part
21 Cauterize
22 "... baked in —"
23 Kangaroo, for one
27 One of the five W's
29 Pakistan language
30 Nuptial vows
32 Actress Ward
34 Capture
37 Sign up
39 Gazes
42 "We — please"
44 Still
45 Kvetches
46 Austen heroine
50 Soup cooker
51 Fury
52 Calendar abbr.
53 Pants part

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	A	N		E	I	S		R	O	U	G	E
L	E	A		T	H	E		U	N	D	E	R
A	I	D		T	C	R	C	H	S	O	N	G
N	O	I		A	R	R	O	R				
G	U	R	U		A	O	L		M	A	K	E
			M	A	X		A	D	O	N	I	S
M	O	_	A	H				I	H	A	I	E
E	N	A	M	E	L		N	E	E			
D	E	M	I		C	B			L	O	A	M
			U	B	O	A	T		U	N	O	
T	I	K	I	T	C	R	C	H		G	N	U
A	N	I	T	A		I		I		H	I	S
J	O	N	A	H		C	N	N		T	E	E

Friday's answer 3 - 14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Follows, 48; Billy Crystal, 68; Quincy Jones, 83; Michael Caine, 83.

Happy Birthday: Forge ahead on your own steam. Relying on others to take over or get things going will slow you down. Do things your way. Taking a unique approach to life and love will help you find the happiness and satisfaction you are searching for. Strive to do your best and take every precaution to avoid outside interference. Your numbers are 2, 10, 21, 24, 33, 39, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't share secrets. Someone will use any information you divulge against you. Focus on making the personal changes that encourage you to advance. Invest in your skills, knowledge and future objectives. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take matters into your own hands. Don't trust someone else to take care of your affairs. Opportunity will come to those who are willing to get involved. Don't limit what you do just because you feel uncertain. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep an open mind, but don't neglect to look at the ins and outs of the situations you face. Moderation and keeping things in perspective will be necessary if you are going to make the most of your day. Avoid people who overreact. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have so much to offer. Don't sit around—get started. Participate in events or functions that inspire you to develop or follow through with some of your own creative ideas. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Reminisce, but don't live in the past. Take what you can from the experiences you have had and begin working toward a better future. Discipline, hard work and a little bit of forethought will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at every angle of whatever situation you face. It's important to recognize how others feel and make decisions that take everyone's wishes into account. Work together with others to identify a solution that will ensure success. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): People will gravitate to your side if you are honest and show your desire to be helpful. Don't allow a bully to push you in a direction that doesn't suit your beliefs. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Plan to do something that allows you greater creativity and mental stimulation. Sharing ideas or getting involved in a group collaboration in order to come up with something unusual will bring you satisfaction. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Confusion will set in if you haven't been honest about the way you feel or what you want to do with your life. It's time to bring about changes, but first you have to deal with the issues that are holding you back. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Strive to be your best. Rid yourself of the poor habits you've picked up or indulgences that are a waste of time and money. It's a new day, and you can make it a new beginning. Check out your options and choose wisely. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Implement discipline and fortitude and you will achieve whatever you set out to do. Refuse to let emotional situations go in the wrong direction. Offer love and affection and you'll avoid a senseless argument. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stay out of other people's affairs. Interference will be your downfall. Whether it's you meddling in someone else's business, or vice versa, it will not end well. Focus on personal improvements, not on trying to change others. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, original and insightful. You are disciplined and opportunistic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		7		2		
7	6						5	8
		2	3		9	1		
		9	5		3	7		
5								9
		8	1		4	6		
		4	7		6	5		
9	2						1	6
		1		4		8		

Difficulty Level ★ 3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	5	8	4	7	1	2	6
7	2	8	3	1	6	9	4	5
6	4	1	9	5	2	3	8	7
1	7	4	6	2	3	8	5	9
8	6	2	7	9	5	4	1	3
5	3	9	1	8	4	6	7	2
9	8	3	5	7	1	2	6	4
2	5	6	4	3	8	7	9	1
4	1	7	2	6	9	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ANTONIN SCALIA (1936-2016) **Solution:** 10 letters

D	I	S	S	N	W	O	T	E	G	R	O	E	G	E
H	C	N	E	B	J	O	N	E	S	T	R	U	O	C
Y	R	O	G	E	R	G	E	J	O	H	N	G	T	O
E	L	(N)	(I)	(N)	(E)	G	U	A	J	A	N	E	F	N
S	D	I	V	A	D	S	S	E	P	C	R	N	O	S
R	Y	X	C	U	T	S	L	P	H	A	E	E	R	T
E	R	O	J	I	O	I	E	R	G	T	A	N	D	I
J	A	N	C	C	S	A	I	R	P	H	G	O	R	T
W	M	E	I	A	L	S	A	N	O	E	A	T	A	U
E	A	A	B	S	T	M	U	T	K	R	N	N	V	T
N	T	E	T	O	N	I	N	P	E	I	I	E	R	I
E	T	P	P	L	A	W	Y	E	R	N	N	R	A	O
H	H	H	A	A	N	N	F	O	R	E	S	T	H	N
N	E	E	R	U	A	M	T	A	E	S	M	R	I	F
R	W	S	W	A	L	C	L	A	R	E	D	E	F	G

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/14

Ann Forest, Appeals, Associate, Bench, Catherine, Christopher, Clare, Constitution, Courts, David, Elisabeth, Eugene, Federal, Firms, Ford, Georgetown, Gregory, Harvard, Jane, John, Jones, Judge, Justice, Laws, Lawyer, Margaret, Mary, Matthew, Maureen, New Jersey, Nine, Nino, Nixon, Note, Paul, Poker, Reagan, Seat, Sicily, Supreme, Trenton

Last Thursday's Answer: Apple

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

Warehouse for RENT

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Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ALL-AROUND BEAUTICIAN

Interested applicants,
please send resume to
MANTRADE COMPANY, INC.
P.O. Box 506118, SAIPAN, MP 96950

LEAVING ISLAND SALE

Items available are the following:
- House items
- Restaurant items
- Auto shop items
- Assorted Store items

Start: March 10, 2016

For inquiries,
call Lilly at 285.6666
or visit Restaurant across
13 Fishermen Utt next to
Saipan Computer, Beach Road

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
(4) Waiter/Waitress
Applicants should have a minimum 3 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours.

(2) Maintenance Technician –
Minimum 3 years work related experience. Flexible working hours.

Please email resume to PMB 373
Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or
email newsic426@gmail.com.
New Star International Corporation
dba Mura Ichiban Restaurant.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Curry's big fourth quarter rallies Warriors past Suns

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 15 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter and the Golden State Warriors rallied from a nine-point deficit over the final 12 minutes to beat the Phoenix Suns 123-116 on Saturday night.

Curry, who spent most of the third quarter on the bench in foul trouble, made three of his seven 3-pointers in the fourth, including two as part of a 18-8 run to close out the game.

The NBA's reigning MVP capped his night with a behind-the-back pass to Shaun Livingston for a layup that helped extend the Warriors' record home winning streak to 48 games.

Golden State (59-6) also stayed one game ahead of the pace of the 1995-96 Bulls, who set an NBA record with 72 wins.

Marreese Speights added 25 points and nine rebounds off the bench, Klay Thompson scored 20 points and Draymond Green had 19 points and six assists.

Phoenix (17-49) didn't go quietly.

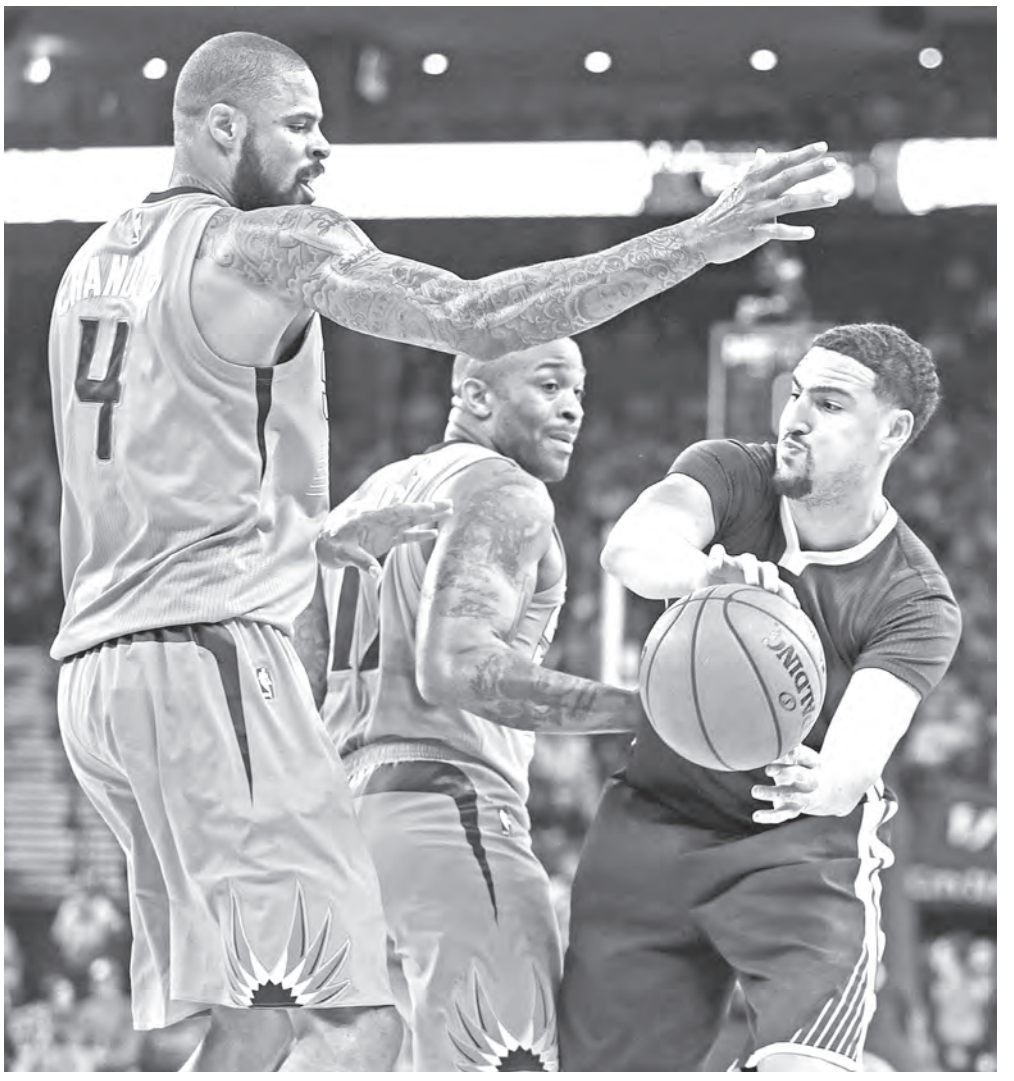
The Suns trailed 68-58 early in the second half but stormed back to take a 95-86 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Brandon Knight sparked Phoenix's burst with five of his career high-tying seven 3s. Knight, in his second game back after missing almost two months with a groin injury, finished with 30 points, seven assists and six rebounds.

The Warriors opened the final quarter with a 16-3 run but still trailed 108-105 with 5:50 to go.

Curry made two 3s sandwiched around a pair of dunks by Speights. Harrison Barnes then added two free throws to put Golden State up 119-108.

Alex Len and Knight scored on consecutive trips down the floor before Curry's jumper slammed the door on the Suns.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, right, looks to pass away from Phoenix Suns' Tyson Chandler (4) and P.J. Tucker during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 12, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Trail Blazers 121, Magic 84

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 19 points and had 10 of Portland's season-high 34 assists as the Trail Blazers beat the short-handed Orlando Magic 121-84 on Saturday night.

C.J. McCollum and Allen Crabbe each had 18 points for the Blazers, who won for the sixth time in their last seven home games.

Victor Oladipo scored 18 points for the Magic, who were without starters Elfrid Payton (sprained elbow) and Nikola Vucevic (strained groin), as well as backup guard Brandon Jennings (sore Achilles).

An otherwise sleepy affair heated up midway through the third quarter. Already a blowout, Lillard and Orlando's Jason Smith had to be separated after exchanging words following an offensive foul on Smith.

Later in the quarter, Blazers reserve Ed Davis was ejected for a flagrant foul on Smith.

Davis used both arms to come down hard on Smith as he drove to the basket. Initially called a common foul, officials reviewed the play and upgraded it to a Flagrant 2 and ejection.

Replays showed Davis' forearm catching Smith across the nose without much of an attempt to play the ball.

The Blazers led 82-60 at the time of the ejection.

After falling behind 11-2 to open the game, Portland found its game and closed the first by outscoring the Magic 29-13, taking the lead for good with 1:55 to go.

Lillard dished out nine assists in the first half while taking only two shots. Crabbe and McCollum carried the scoring burden, combining for 25 points as Portland led by as many as 23 before heading to the half with a 63-42 advantage.

Six Blazers scored in double figures. Meyers Leonard had 13 and Gerald Henderson 11 off the bench. Al-Farouq Aminu scored 11 points and added seven rebounds.

Aaron Gordon had 17 points and Evan Fournier scored 13 of his 15 points in the first quarter for Orlando. Mario Hezonja added 11.

Spurs 93, Thunder 85

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 93-85 on Saturday night for their 41st straight home victory, the third-longest streak in NBA history.

The Spurs avenged a season-opening loss to the Thunder and made it 32 straight wins to open this season at home, where they haven't lost in the regular season since last March.

Only Golden State, which had won 47 in a row entering Saturday, and the Chicago teams that won 44 straight in 1995-96 had longer streaks.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 points, and Tim Duncan had 11 for San Antonio. The Spurs extended their lead over Oklahoma City to 12 games for the second seed in the Western Conference.

Kevin Durant had 28 points for the Thunder.

Hornets 125, Rockets 109

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 17 of his 26 points in the second half and Charlotte used a 27-8 run to open the fourth quarter and beat Houston for its seventh straight victory.

Marvin Williams added 25 points, Jeremy Lin had 16, and Al Jefferson added 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Hornets. They have won 13 of their last 15 games.

Corey Brewer had 21 points, and Dwight Howard added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets. James Harden struggled from the field, shooting 2 of 14 and finishing with 12 points and 10 assists.

Raptors 112, Heat 104, OT

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan matched his season high with 38 points and added 10 rebounds and Toronto outlasted Miami in overtime.

Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points and 10 rebounds, while Kyle Lowry chipped in with 16 points for the Raptors. They secured the season series against the Heat for the second straight season, as well as a potential playoff tiebreaker should they finish with the same record.

Joe Johnson had 28 points, and Luol Deng added 20 for the Heat.

Pacers 112, Mavericks 105

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 17 points in his return to Dallas, Paul George had 18 of his 20 in the second half and Indiana extended the Mavericks' longest losing streak of the season to five games.

Ellis got a warm greeting in his first visit since the end of last season, when he was the first leading scorer not named Dirk Nowitzki for Dallas since 2000. He signed with Indiana as a free agent.

George Hill hit three 3-pointers and scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for the Pacers.

Nowitzki scored 30 points to lead the Mavericks.

Pistons 125, Sixers 111

In Phidalelphia, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 23 points, Tobias Harris added 21 and Detroit used a big second half to beat Philadelphia.

Trailing 57-52 at halftime, the Pistons shot 15 for 20 in a 38-point third quarter and finished with 73 points over the final two periods while erasing two 10-point deficits.

Reggie Jackson scored 15 of his 24 points in the first half for the Pistons. Andre Drummond had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Marcus Morris also finished with 19 points.

Isaiah Canaan had 20 points for the 76ers.

Nuggets 116, Wizards 100

In Denver, Jusuf Nurkic scored all of his season-high 17 points in the second half and Denver rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Washington.

Gary Harris, D.J. Augustin and Darrell Arthur also scored 17 points and Will Barton finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for Denver.

John Wall had 19 points and 11 assists for the Wizards. They have lost five straight.

Hawks 95, Grizzlies 83

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 21 points to help Atlanta beat depleted Memphis.

Al Horford had 19 points, and Jeff Teague 18. The Hawks closed the first half with a 30-10 run.

Lance Stephenson scored 18 points for Memphis, and Tony Allen had 15. Before the game, the Grizzlies said guard Mike Conley will miss at least three to four weeks with Achilles tendinitis in his left foot.

Bucks 103, Pelicans 92

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored 19 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 18 in Milwaukee's victory over New Orleans.

Jerryd Bayless had 17 points to help Milwaukee end a six-game losing streak to New Orleans that dated to 2012. Anthony Davis had 29 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans. They have lost seven of eight.

SIDEBAR Conley out 3-4 weeks with Achilles tendinitis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Grizzlies guard Mike Conley has Achilles tendinitis in his left foot that will keep him out for at least 3 to 4 weeks, after which he will be re-evaluated.

The Grizzlies provided an update on Conley's injury on Saturday, along with that of center Chris Andersen, who remains out after dislocating his left shoulder March 6 in a loss to Phoenix. The Grizzlies say Andersen will continue to be re-evaluated.

Conley has missed the last three games with soreness in his foot. He started all 56 games he has played this season, averaging 15.3 points and a team-high 6.1 assists.

This is just the latest wave of injuries for the Grizzlies (39-26), who remain fifth in the Western Conference despite a changing lineup. Memphis plays at Atlanta on Saturday night, a night after beating New Orleans in overtime with a rookie point guard signed out of the D-League on a 10-day contract earlier in the day.

Briante Weber was signed after Memphis waived guard Mario Chalmers, who ruptured his right Achilles tendon in a loss at Boston on Wednesday night. Weber scored 10 points and had seven assists in 40 minutes against New Orleans.

In Oakland, Golden State forward Andre Iguodala will miss at least two weeks due to a sprained left ankle.

Iguodala got hurt in the second half of the league-leading Warriors' 128-112 win against Portland on Friday. He will be re-evaluated in two weeks.

"It's a big deal. It's a really big deal," Kerr said before Saturday's game against Phoenix. "Andre's so important to everything we do. Not only just in terms of schematically, but just emotionally."

The 32-year-old Iguodala was the NBA Finals MVP last year when the Warriors won the title for the first time since 1975. The reserve is averaging 7.3 points and 4.1 rebounds in 60 games this season.

Kerr said he expects reserve forward Brandon Rush will see an increase in minutes. Point guard Ian Clark also could get more time on the court.

"We've got a lot of guys who are really smart players, who understand the game, who know the ebbs and flows, when to calm things down," Kerr said. "We have to get the right combinations out there. But nobody's going to replace Andre. He's the Finals MVP, one of the smartest guys I've ever been around."

DeMarcus Ware redoes deal to stay in Denver

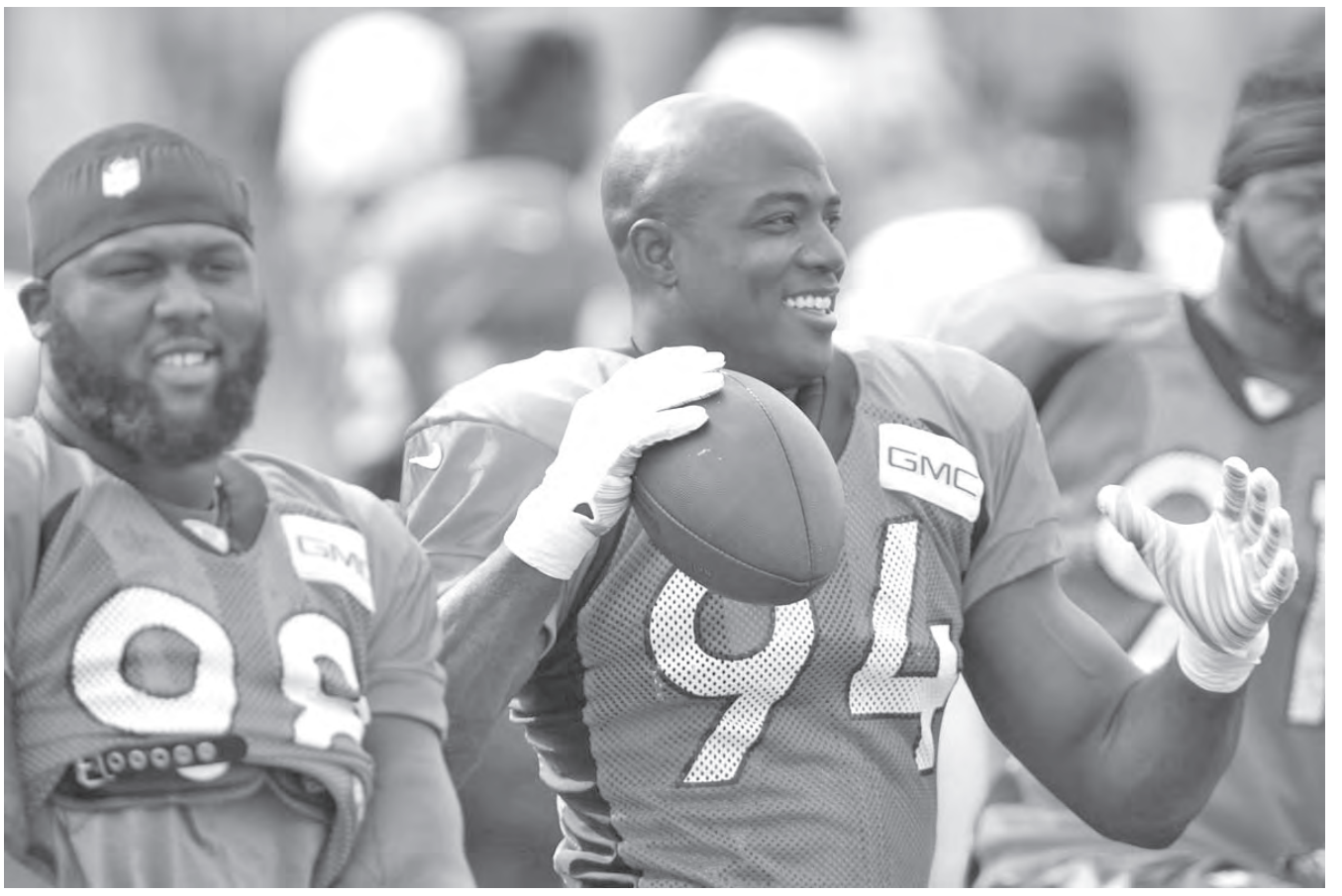
ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—DeMarcus Ware has restructured his contract to stay with the Denver Broncos, who have lost several key players to free agency.

Ware had been scheduled to earn a $3 million bonus Sunday and $7 million next season in the final year of the $30 million contract he signed in 2014.

Ware finished second on the team behind Von Miller with 7 1/2 sacks last season despite missing five games and parts of two others with a bad back.

He had a monster playoff run with 12 quarterback hits, 3 1/2 sacks and four tackles for loss.

Ware's restructuring assures Denver retains one of the league's top pass rushing duos. The Broncos placed their franchise tag on Miller,



AP

In this Aug. 6, 2015, photo, Denver Broncos defensive end DeMarcus Ware throws a football while stretching at the team's NFL football training camp in Englewood, Colo.

son wore on, but they made little impact.

Freeman said the Colts made it clear they weren't going to re-sign him, that they basically told him, "Good luck in free agency."

"It's a business and I guess they have other people they need to take care of. I know they've got Andrew (Luck) coming up," he said. "It's a business, and I understand. From that perspective, there's no hard feelings there. I understand they've got to do what's best for their team."

In Kansas City, the Chiefs signed free-agent cornerback Jamell Fleming and wide receiver Rod Streater on Saturday.

Fleming, a former third-round draft pick out of Oklahoma, appeared in all 16 games for Kansas City last season. He joined the Chiefs in 2014, starting four of the seven games he played that season.

He provides some depth after the departure of Sean Smith in free agency.

Streater has spent the past four seasons with the AFC West-rival Oakland Raiders, though he's been slowed by injury much of the past two seasons. Streater's best year came in 2013, when he caught 60 passes for 888 yards and four touchdowns.

He will compete with Albert Wilson and Chris Conley for playing time alongside Jeremy Maclin.

SIDEBAR

Steelers' Bryant facing year-long suspension

PITTSBURGH(AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Martavis Bryant is facing a one-year suspension from the NFL for violating the league's substance abuse policy for the second time.

Bryant's agent, Thomas Santanello, confirmed the potential discipline in email to The Associated Press on Saturday night and said Bryant has filed an appeal. The suspension was first reported by DKPittsburghsports.com.

The 24-year-old Bryant was suspended for the first four games last season and spent a portion of that time in Houston with John Lucas, the former NBA player and coach who operates a substance abuse facility. He came back saying he was humbled by the experience.

Bryant caught 50 passes for 765 yards and six touchdowns and was dynamic in the playoffs. He made an acrobatic scoring grab in a wild-card win over Cincinnati and hauled in nine passes for 154 yards in a loss to Denver in the divisional round, serving as quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's top target with All-Pro Antonio Brown out with a concussion.

The Steelers had no comment on Bryant's situation. The NFL typically does not announce any punishment for substance abuse violations until the appeals process is complete.

Pittsburgh took the raw 6-foot-4 Bryant in the fourth round of the 2014 draft. His arrival on the active roster in Week 7 of his rookie season ignited an 8-2 surge that lifted the Steelers to the AFC North title. Any forward momentum took a hit, however, when he ran afoul of the league's substance abuse guidelines. He stressed he learned from the suspension and "moved past it" yet Steelers chairman Art Rooney II remained pragmatic when talking about the talented but enigmatic receiver shortly after the 2015 season ended.

"Martavis is a player that has tremendous ability and potential," Rooney said in January. "We just have to continue to work with him to make sure he takes care of his business off the field to put himself in a position to be as great a player as he can be. He's one of those guys where the sky is the limit. I hope the experience he had earlier this season made an impact on him. But it's one of those things where only time will tell."

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger made it a point to reach out to Bryant during his time away from the team last fall, comparing Bryant to "a little brother."

the MVP of Super Bowl 50.

In Illinois, the Chicago Bears added another inside linebacker to their defense Saturday, agreeing to a three-year contract with Jerrell Freeman.

The deal with the former Indianapolis Colts player comes three days after the signing of Danny Trevathan. The moves address one of the Bears' biggest needs and give them two new starters.

The Bears also agreed to a two-year contract with defensive lineman Mitch Unrein and a one-year deal with receiver and return specialist Marc Mariani.

The 29-year-old Freeman started all 57 games he played in the past four seasons with Indianapolis after spending three years with the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Since entering the NFL in 2012, he is tied for sixth in tackles. He led the Colts in defensive tackles in 2012 and `13 and ranked second in 2014 and `15.

Freeman is known for his athleticism, and the Bears will be counting on that as they try to become a contender after finishing last in the NFC North at 6-10. They showed some progress in their first season under coach John Fox and general manager Ryan Pace but missed the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years.

"I wasn't really worried about the Bears' record," Freeman said. "I was just looking at the pieces. And I can tell the pieces are there. I was definitely interested in Chicago from the start."

Freeman heard good things about coach John Fox from several former teammates, particularly Colts safety and former Bronco Mike Adams. Fox also impressed Freeman when the Bears and Colts practiced together in Indianapolis last August before their preseason game, and the front office and coaches made another strong impression during their free-agency pitch.

One of Chicago's biggest areas of concern this offseason was at inside linebacker after former first-round pick Shea McClellin and Christian Jones struggled. Jonathan Anderson and John Timu got more playing time as the sea-

Haas builds 1-shot lead at Innisbrook

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Bill Haas was looking for a spark and knew just where to find it.

He called his dad.

Jay Haas is a nine-time PGA Tour and two-time Presidents Cup captain, and the only person Bill Haas trusts when it comes to golf. So he asked his father to come down to the Valspar Championship earlier in the week, hopeful "he would have the magical touch."

It appears to be working.

Haas worked his way through the wind on another tough day and chipped in for birdie one the par-3 15th hole on his way to a 4-under 67, giving him a one-shot lead over Graham DeLaet of Canada going into the final round at Innisbrook.

It was one shot on the fifth hole of a practice round Tuesday. Jay Haas suggested that his son use an abbreviated follow on his swing so that it would force him to get his hands through the ball quicker and avoid shots that were leaking to the right.

"He came up with the swing thought I've had for three days, and I'm leading," Haas said. "Without him coming down, I might not even have made the weekend. It was very valuable."

And if it doesn't hold up on Sunday?

"If it goes south, I can blame him," Haas said with a laugh.

Haas was at 8-under 205

DeLaet, now sporting a beard that would make Old Tom Morris proud, pounded a 3-wood out of the rough and over the water to 3 feet on the par-5 14th for an eagle that shot him up the leaderboard, and he finished with a 68 to get into the last group.

Haas is as honest as any golfer at the highest level. He realizes he can play a solid round Sunday and it might not be enough because of the players behind him—that includes defending champion Jordan Spieth—and the nature of the Copperhead course. This is the first stop on the Florida swing where no one has shot better than 66.

DeLaet, still looking for his first PGA Tour victory, sounds more determined than ever. This is a great chance to win. He wants to grab it.

"Every time in this position I kind of say the politically correct things," he said. "I'm going to go and win this golf tournament tomorrow. That's my plan."

It's still up in the grabs on Sunday because of Innisbrook, which takes shots away more often than it gives up birdies. Six players were within four shots of the lead, and even Spieth believes he is still in the mix.

Spieth, who opened his title defense with a 76, made the cut with one shot to spare on Friday and moved into a tie for ninth on Saturday with a bogey-free 67 in which he holed a long eagle putt and made a pair of key par saves coming in.

"To think after the first round that I go Saturday night be able to sleep with a chance to win the golf tournament, I'm very pleased with that," Spieth said.

Charley Hoffman (67) and Ryan Moore (69) were three shots behind.

Charles Howell III had a 70 and was four shots behind, though still has a reasonable chance to win and earn a return to the Masters, which motivates the Augusta, Georgia, native this time of the year.

Red-carded Costa denies biting rival as Chelsea exits FA Cup

ENGLAND (AO)—Diego Costa told Chelsea he didn't bite an Everton opponent in a confrontation that led to the fiery striker being sent off on Saturday as his team was knocked out of the FA Cup.

Chelsea had just been humiliated by former striker Romelu Lukaku scoring twice in a five-minute span, including a breathtaking solo goal, when Costa was sent off in the 84th minute of Everton's 2-0 win in the FA Cup quarterfinals.

Reacting to a challenge from Gareth Barry, Costa thrust his head at the Everton midfielder before appearing to sink his teeth toward Barry's neck in a biting motion. Having already been shown a yellow card for a 10th-minute foul on Barry, Costa was dismissed for the first time in two seasons at Chelsea after being booked again.

There was no immediate reaction from Barry to suggest he had been bitten. More than four hours after the incident, Chelsea insisted there was no bite.

"Diego spoke to club officials after the game and expressed regret over his reaction to the challenge from Gareth Barry that led to his red card," Chelsea said late Saturday on Twitter. "But Diego was also very clear that he did not bite him at any point during that altercation."

Everton also ended with 10 men after Barry himself was shown a second yellow card three minutes later for catching Cesc Fabregas.

"Diego Costa had a fighting spirit and I would like to praise the referee (Michael Oliver)," Everton manager Roberto Martinez said. "The sending off of Costa was right.

"The sending off of Gareth Barry was right and the referee never allowed those emotions to stop the fluency. Whatever happens with Diego Costa I am sure the two players shook it off."

The FA Cup exit followed Chelsea being eliminated from the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

Any hopes of defending the Premier League trophy were extinguished long ago, with Chelsea currently 10th with nine games remaining and highly likely to miss out on European football next season.

Manchester City doesn't look like it will be succeeding Chelsea as Premier League champions after being held 0-0 at relegation-threatened Norwich on Saturday to stay fourth, nine points behind surprise leader Leicester.

The late dismissals at Goodison Park overshadowed Lukaku's superb goals which left Chelsea to rue offloading the Belgium striker in 2014 for 28 million pounds (then $47 million), having spent most of his career on loan away from Stamford Bridge.

Lukaku's first goal came in the 77th minute after Ross Barkley slipped the ball through to him on the left wing. Lukaku slalomed past two players before cutting inside past defenders Cesar Azpilicueta and Branislav Ivanovic and striking low past compatriot Thibaut Courtois.

The Belgium goalkeeper was beaten again in the 82nd when Lukaku put the ball through his legs for his 25th goal of the season—a tally greater than Chelsea's strikers combined.

So, unlike in 2009, Guus Hiddink will not be ending this interim spell as Chelsea manager by lifting the FA Cup.

And Jose Mourinho's permanent successor will have to rebuild the squad by attracting players to a team likely out of Europe. At the same time, Chelsea is still dealing with the legal fallout from Mourinho's rift with its former team doctor on the opening day of the season as Eva Carneiro's constructive dismissal case heads to a public tribunal hearing.

Relegation was the immediate threat to Chelsea when Hiddink replaced Mourinho in December but the champions' Premier League status is not under threat.

"My first task was to get us, as soon as possible, out of this relegation zone which we surprisingly did well within a few weeks from the 16th place to 10th," Hiddink said. "But then it is difficult, as I said before, to achieve the Champions League places and maintain two roads to have success which is the FA Cup and which was the Champions League. They are gone now and that's a pity."

Bournemouth looks like staying for a second season in the top flight after beating Swansea 3-2 to move 13 points clear of the relegation zone with eight games to play.

Steve Cook grabbed the winner after Max Gradel netted his first goal for the south-coast club and Joshua King only his second.

Swansea had leveled twice, first through Modou Barrow and then Gylfi Sigurdsson. But the Welsh club is now only two places and eight points above the drop zone.

Norwich remains in the relegation zone despite drawing with Manchester City, but above Newcastle and Aston Villa.

In Saturday's third Premier League game, Graziano Pelle scored twice as Southampton beat Stoke 2-1, leapfrogging the hosts in the standings to seventh place. Southampton had Sadio Mane sent off in second-half stoppage time for an elbow on Erik Pieters.

AP

Chelsea's Diego Costa, center, narrowly fails to score past Everton's goalkeeper Joel Robles during the English FA Cup quarter-final soccer match between Everton and Chelsea at Goodison Park Stadium, Liverpool, England, Saturday March 12, 2016.

WASLE

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Hadden was the first to complete the two-lap swim course with her 17:00, followed by Bucher (17:02) and Wasle (17:16).

With a manageable deficit, Wasle was able to grab the lead early and never relinquished the driver's seat despite a tough challenge from Carey.

"I was already ahead by the time we reached the first climb in Navy Hill. However, I kept on looking back at Mieko to see if she was catching up. The bike trail was very nice and for the first time I did not have a crash," the diminutive pro added.

Wasle had a smooth ride in the bike trail that she only got minor scrapes on her left right arm. She finished the bike leg in 1:43:06—the fastest time in the women's field—to stretch her lead against Carey. The former Saipan pro, who is now based in Guam, clocked in at 1:44:31 in the bike leg, while Bucher and Hadden were way behind at 1:52:16 and 2:05:18, respectively.

With Wasle ahead by only one minute and change over Carey, the former went for the final push in the bike leg—her favorite part of the course. Wasle completed the run leg about five minutes ahead of Carey, 1:05:18 to 1:10:49, en route to beating her 2015 time (3:07:33).

"The XTERRA Saipan run trail is one of the reasons I kept coming back here. It's very technical, but so beautiful. Today is just an amazing race for me," said Wasle, who was so happy with her first place finish that she did not mind doing it barefoot after throwing her pair of shoes when she entered the loop.

"I was a bit uncomfortable with my shoes and it was already painful so I threw them away when I realized I was nearing the finish line."

Meanwhile, Carey also considered last Saturyday's race a good one despite falling short in her bid to sweep the Saipan Sportsfest after winning Tagaman Triathlon early this month.

"I'm satisfied with my results, with how I raced last Saturday. I had a bad race in Philippines last month because mentally I couldn't push myself. After that I tried to focus, not be lazy, and push myself. I did all these last Saturday. The bike and run trails have great conditions. I went there last Tuesday when it was raining and it was hard. Last Saturday, it was much easier. It was a lucky day," Carey said.

SAIPAN

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1.5-kilometer swim leg in the shallow waters off Micro Beach and Gardner showed little or no signs at all of fatigue from his nearly 24 hours of travel time and lack of sleep. He was way ahead of the pack by the time he got out of the water and ran along the shore for the second and final lap of the swim leg.

"The water was so shallow that I had to do a lot of walking and dolphin dives," said Gardner, who completed the swim with the field's fastest time of 15:21. "Since I haven't seen the course, my plan was really to get a good lead in the swim leg so that once I started the bike and got lost on my way, I have time to spare."

The newcomer was about two minutes ahead of Ogasawara, an XTERRA Saipan veteran and timed in at 17:10 in the bike leg, and Miller (17:03). Cho clocked in at 17:21.

Gardner needed the slim lead against Ogasawara as they were neck-and-neck in the 30K bike trail. The Australian pro posted 1:33:40 in the bike race, 13 seconds slower than his Japanese foe. Miller and Cho finished the bike trail in 1:41:19 and 1:50:47, respectively.

"My strategy in the bike leg was to shadow him (Ogasawara) if I lost the lead since I did not know the course. There were times he had overtaken me, but as long as I could still see him from a distance, I knew I had a chance," said Gardner, who reached the bike-run transition area about a minute ahead of Ogasawara.

In the 12K trail run, Gardner was still threatened by Ogasawara, who even posted a faster time than the former, 1:03:37 to 1:03:45.

"I lost my way a couple of times along the run trail, especially in the cave area. It was dark and I could not find my way out. The run course was very technical and I lost some time, but fortunately I had a good lead in the swim," said Gardner.

With his close win, Gardner earned his first victory in the XTERRA Asian Tour. He finished third behind XTERRA Saipan veterans Bradley Weiss and Ben Allen in last month's XTERRA Philippines.

"I am glad I came here and won my first XTERRA Saipan," Gardner said.

MIXED

From Page 27

Sakude 11, Hunters 6
Snipers 9, Proofers 8

Masters

- Dart Daddies 11, Pythons 6
- Nakayoshi 11, Darteros 6

C Division

- Just Dart It 10, DNA Jump It 5
- Spartans 9, Puntan I Langit 6
- Managaha Boyz 8, C-Busters 7
- Mixed Nuts 8, Blue Koi 7

Fanihi

- Mafia II 13, Fearless 2
- Life After Darts 11, Parakeyu 4
- Dart Vader 9, Preba Darts 6
- Ta Chagi Talo 8, Dragons 7

Flame Tree

- Na'Gupu 12, One Shot 3
- Latte Sparts 10, No Fear 5
- Kyodai 9, Em Tech's 6
- Ridin'Darrty 8, Serial Killaz 7

Wong wins debut in Diaz youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wong had a rousing debut in the U15 division of the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League following a 37-20 victory over Kanaka 4 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Greg Deleon Guerrero led Wong's win after scoring 12 points. Six other Wong players hit the board in the team's first game in the league named after the former Rotary head and an ardent basketball supporter and sanctioned by Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

Deleon Guerrero opened Wong's offense with his back-to-back baskets and the rest of his teammates stepped in for the easy win. Wong players showed better fundamentals than Kanaka 4, which was obviously lost in its debut in an organized league.

Kanaka 4 struggled too much that it made only 4 points after three quarters before it started collecting garbage points in the fourth with Wong relaxing a bit on defense.

Lysander Chuweiluk paced with his 6 points.

Meanwhile, the youth league opened last Friday with a pair of U18 matches.

In the first game, Rollers Blue edged the Ol'Aces 1, 59-55, while in the second match, the Ol'Aces 2 posted a similar close win versus Rollers 57, 55.

Tray Ngirarois, Albert Atan, and Rikko Saralu teamed up in giving the Ol'Aces a 2-point win after combining for more than half of the squad's total output. Ngirarois had a team-high 18 points and scored 3 of the Ol'Aces 2's last 6 markers, while Atan and Saralu chipped in 16 and 13, respectively, and drilled the squad's 3 other points in the homestretch.

It was a come-from-behind victory for the Ol'Aces as they faced a 3-17 deficit at the end of the first period before Ngirarois and company overhauled Rollers' lead and stole the win.

Chioni Dela Cruz top-scored for Rollers with his 10 markers.

In the other 18U match, Rollers Blue leaned on Christian Arceo at crunch time to slip past the Ol'Aces 1. Arceo knocked in 10 of his 12 points in the second half, including 4 straight markers in the closing minutes of the game.

Before Arceo hit his target in the second half, the Ol'Aces banked on Aaron Ogumoro in the opening half to keep up with the Ol'Aces. Ogumoro went on to lead all scorers with his 19 points, while June Alipio backed him up, adding 13. Ogumoro and Alipio made one free throw each after Arceo's string of 4 markers to seal the win for Rollers Blue.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wong's Sean Apasan tries to drop the ball to his teammates as two Kanaka 4 players hound him during the fourth quarter of their U15 game in the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

U15 DIVISION

Wong 37— Deleon Guerrero 12, Junior 8, Ferrari 4, Siren 4, Apasan 4, Mungwaath 3, Abejo 2.

Kanaka 4 20 — Chuweiluk 6, Taro 4, Stanley 4, Jose 4, Larsan 2.

U18 DIVISION
First Game

Rollers Blue 59— Ogumoro 19, Alipio 13, Arceo 12, Tengco 4, Agulto 4, Cobacha 2, Rabauliman 2.

Ol'Aces 1 55— Atalig 12, Castillo 12, Sablan 9, Atan 8, Borja 6, Snech 6.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 2 57— Ngirarois 18, Atan 16, Saralu 13, Pangelinan 5, Ferrera 5,

Rollers 55— Dela Cruz 10, Cruz 8, Hudkins 8, Ong 6, Kisa 6, Factor 5, Ichihara 5, Quiroz 2, Valencia 2.

Tan joins ITF Junior tourney in Brunei

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Tania Tan pose for a photo before playing in the 53rd Brunei ITF Junior Circuit held last week at the National Tennis Centre of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Jalan Berakas, Brunei Darussalam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Tania Tan participated in the 53rd Brunei ITF Junior Circuit held last week at the National Tennis Centre of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Jalan Berakas, Brunei Darussalam.

Tan went to Brunei after getting a wild card and competed in the main draw of both the singles and doubles event of the annual tournament. In the singles, she was paired against the seventh-seeded Chisato Hayakawa of Japan and lost, 0-6-0-6. Hakayawa eventually made it to the quarterfinals before bowing to the second-ranked Joleta Budiman of Indonesia, 1-6, 2-6, while the former's compatriot and No. 1 seed Naho Sato topped the event following a three-set win in the finals against Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

In the doubles event, Tan teamed up with Malaysia's Nor Aida Amir and they dueled siblings Jennifer and Joleta Budiman. The Indonesian pair swept the CNMI-Malaysia duo, 6-1, 6-1. Sato and fellow Japanese player Funa Kozaki ruled the doubles contest after outclassing Indonesia's Shevita Aulana and Novela Rezha Millenia Putri, 6-2, 6-3.

Despite dropping her opening matches in both the doubles and singles event, the 14-year-old Tan was thankful for the opportunity to compete in one of the events under the ITF Junior Circuit.

"The games were very tough as all the players are very good. I need to work a lot with my game to keep up with power hitting players. Getting a wild card and playing in this high level tournament was a great opportunity for me," said the many-time CNMI Junior National Team member.

The competition in Brunei was Tan's fifth in the ITF Junior Circuit. She joined similar events, which awarded ranking points, in New Zealand, Guam, Vietnam, and Saipan last year.

The 53rd Brunei ITF Junior Circuit was a Grade 4 event that gave 40 and 30 ranking points to the singles and doubles champions, respectively. The runner-up in the singles contest received 30, 20 for the semifinalists, 15 for the quarterfinalists, and 5 for the losers in Round of 16. In the doubles, points awarded were 20, 15, and 10 to the runners-up, semifinalists, and quarterfinalists.

Tan is back on Saipan after her brief stay in Brunei and will return to training in preparation for next month's CNMI National Junior Championships. She is also likely to play in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships, which Saipan will be hosting in June, and in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Mixed fortunes for Chamberos, Spartans

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sister teams Jokers Chamberos and Spartans encountered mixed fortunes last Tuesday night as action continued in the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2016 season.

The Chamberos, the Tuesday B leaders, dropped a 6-9 decision to the 21 Shockers, while the Spartans dealt the Northern Lights an 11-4 beating in a family affair at Jokers Bar & Grill, which supports all four squads.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Spartans players pose for a photo during a break in their game against the Northern Lights in the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2016 season last week at Jokers Bar & Grill.

The Chamberos, despite the loss, remained on top of the standings with its 144 wins out of 225 games, but the Spartans are just one-game behind at 143-82 after their lopsided victory. The Shockers are not far behind with a 138-87 slate.

It will be a tight race for the division championship between the Chamberos and Spartans, while the Shockers still have a chance to improve their standings in the final six weeks in the Tuesday B division. April 19 is the final play date.

The Doro's Hot Points (126-99), Northern Lights (123-102), 6JM G-Side Shooters (85-140), VFW Dabarkads (77-148), and the VFW Warriors (64-161) complete the standings.

The G-Side Shooters escaped with an 8-7 decision over the Dabarkads in the other match.

A Division

Predators 14, No Fear 3
Ridin'Darrty 11, Shockers 6

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Curry's big fourth quarter rallies Warriors past Suns

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DeMarcus Ware redoes deal to stay in Denver

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Newcomer rules XTERRA Saipan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australia's Brodie Gardner celebrates his XTERRA Saipan Championship victory last Saturday at the American Memorial Park grounds.

Saipan Sportsfest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Australian pro Brodie Gardner beat the odds to win his debut in the 2016 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Gardner completed last Saturday's off-road triathlon race in 2:52:46 to defeat Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara (2:54:14), the Philippines' Joseph Miller (3:05:03), and South Korea's Kaon Cho (3:21:08) for the men's division crown.

Gardner's victory came less than six hours after he touched down on Saipan for the first time, slept for about 30 minutes before preparing for the race, and headed to the course he had no idea where it would take him.

"I came here early Saturday morning between 1:30am and 2am after missing my original flight Friday morning. Honestly, two days ago, I wasn't sure if I will come here on not," the Sunshine Coast, Queensland resident said.

Gardner arrived on Saipan just several hours before the weekend's race started after having trouble with his travel documents. The Australian immigration initially did not allow him to leave the Land Down Under as one day had already lapsed from the allowed six months validity of his passport. Fortunately, some people helped him fix the problem for just hours instead of weeks, but still he missed his originally flight so he ended up reaching Saipan early Saturday morning.

"I am thankful that Nicky Nichols picked me up in the wee hours of morning and gave me a place to stay. I slept for about 30 minutes and then got ready for the race in a course I had never seen before," said Gardner, who got some info about the course from Nichols on their way to the Saipan resident's home.

The race began with a

See SAIPAN on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Carina Wasle negotiates an uphill road along Mt. Tapochao, while Mieko Carey tries to catch up during the bike leg of last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Wasle tops women's field for second time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Just when Carina Wasle braced for a rough race, perfect course conditions greeted her during the 2016 XTERRA Saipan Championship

"I've been coming here since 2011 and I could say that today (last Saturday) was the most perfect day to race," said Wasle, who was the top female finisher in XTERRA Tour's Crown Jewel after completing the 1.5-kilometer swim leg, 30K bike, and 12K trail un in 3:05:40.

The Austrian pro finished ahead of Saipan favorite Mieko Carey (3:12:40), seven-time champion Renata Bucher (3:22:38), and Australia's Belinda Hadden (3:40:21). Wasle's victory was her second and it came after she placed runner-up to United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack in the last two years.

"After I learned that the bike and run trails had some changes because of the typhoon I was worried that the course would be a killer. But, it wasn't, it was dry and way much easier than last year," said Wasle, who was too cautious in the bike leg in last year's rain-soaked XTERRA, leaving her with no time to catch up with Slack in the run race.

As for the swim leg, which surprised most of the participants because of the shallow water at Micro Beach, Wasle believed it worked to her advantage.

"Most of us did dolphin dives and we're stuck together, so I wasn't worried that I will be left behind," said Wasle, who in the past five years chased her competitors after the swing leg.

While Wasle loved the swim leg, Carey could not share the same feeling.

"I wish there's a little bit of high tide so everyone had to swim instead of diving or walking because I could have a little bit of advantage," said Carey, who was fourth out of the water in her division.

See WASLE on Page 26